DR. JOSE P. RIZAL'S

NOLI ME TANGERE

Written by
Leo Miranda and D.G. Dumaraos

Design and Illustration
Crisostomo + Giron

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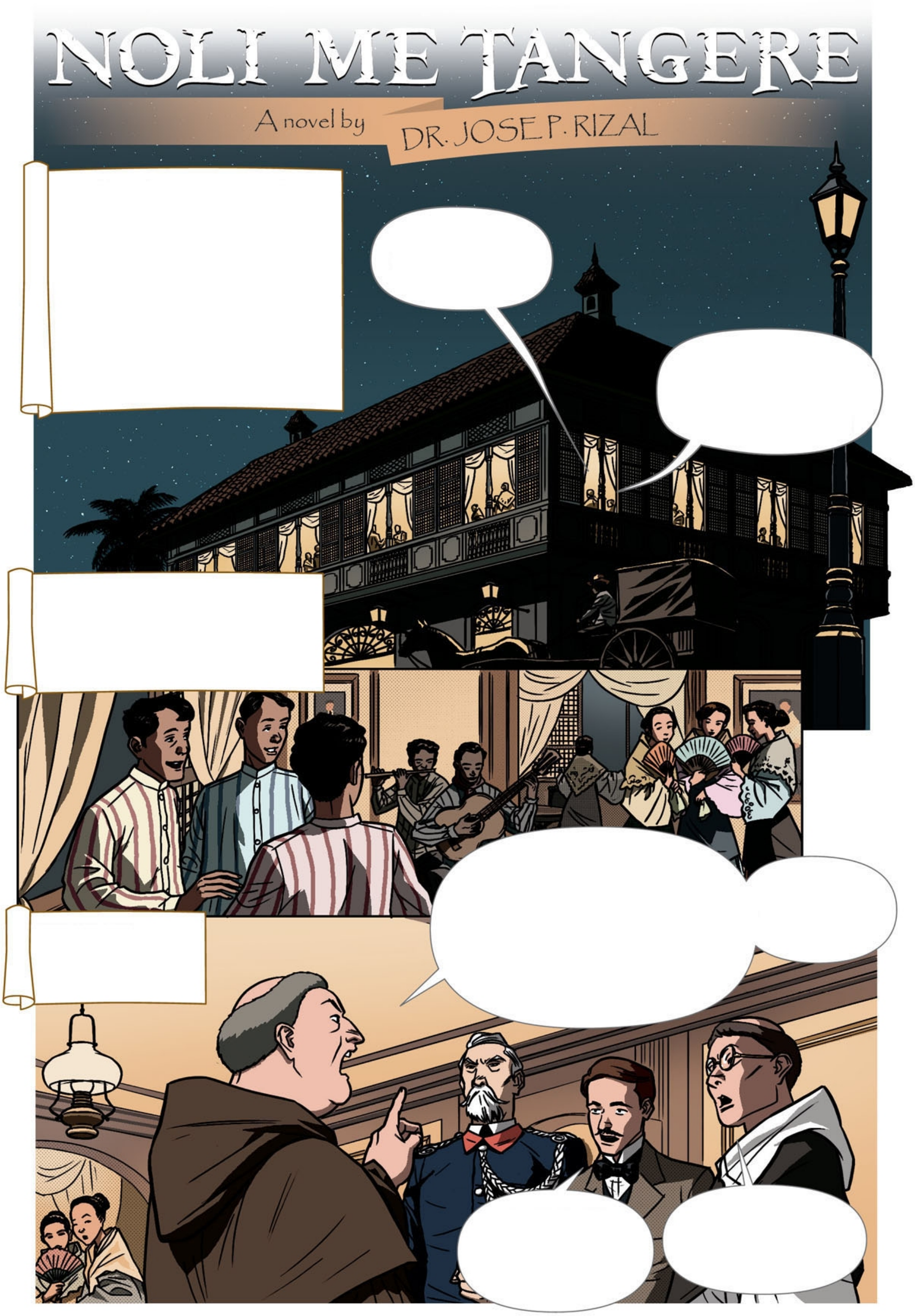

NOLI ME TANGERE
A novel by
DR. JOSE P. RIZAL

DON SANTIAGO DE LOS SANTOS, BETTER KNOWN AS CAPITAN TIAGO, WAS A WELL-KNOWN FIGURE IN THE DISTRICT OF BINONDO, NOT SO MUCH FOR HIS WEALTH BUT FOR HIS KINDNESS. ONE EVENING, IN HIS PALATIAL HOUSE ON ANLOAGUE STREET...

THIS IS A GRAND RECEPTION, DON'T YOU THINK SO?

NATURALMENTE!

HIJA, DON TIAGO IS A RICH MAN AND HE DOES NOT MIND SPENDING!

ON ONE SIDE OF THE HALL,

YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN
MERRILY SWAPPED JOKES
AND TEASED EACH OTHER...
WHILE ON
ANOTHER PART
OF THE HALL...

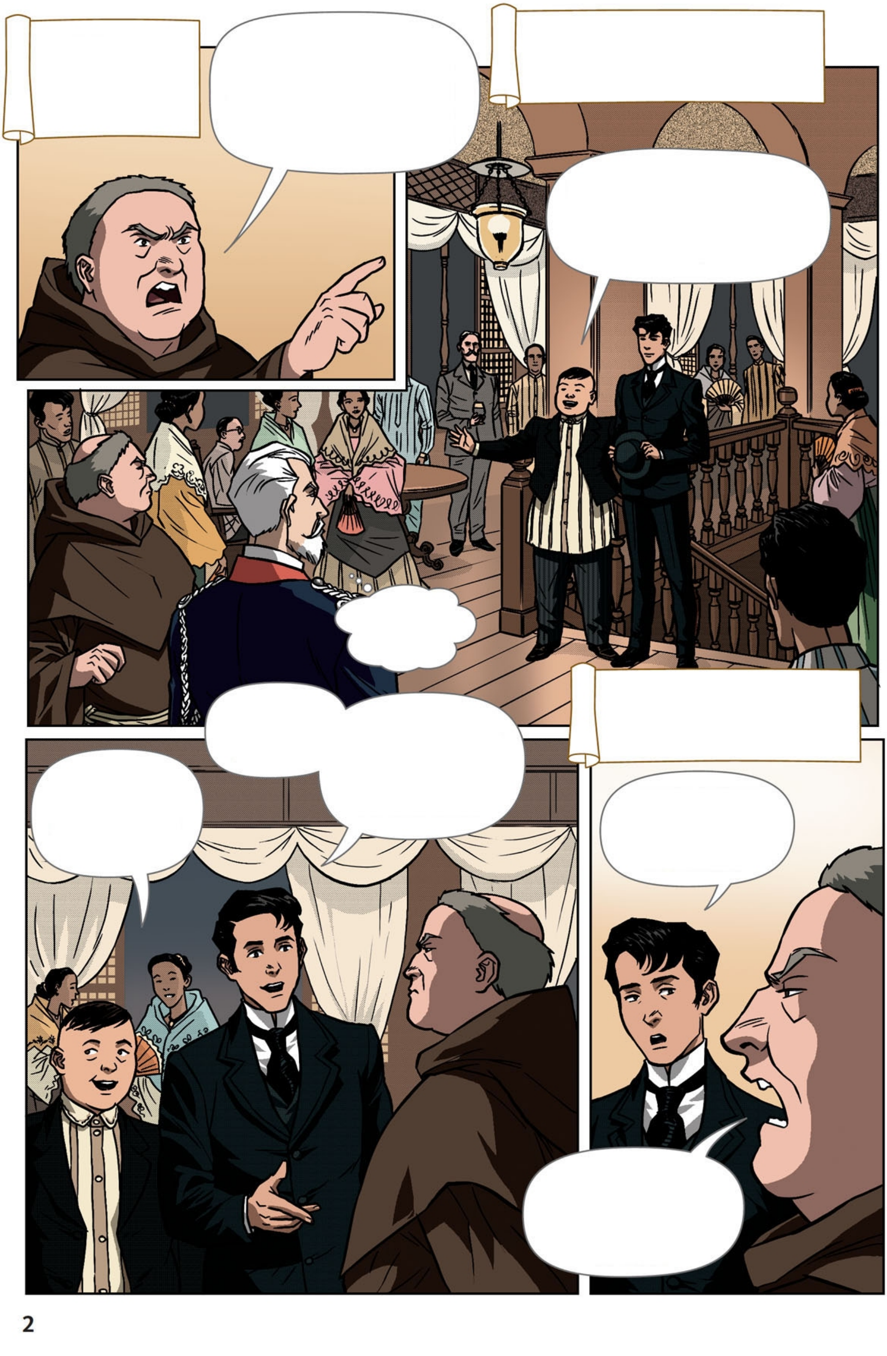
A GREAT MANY INDIOS
ARE UNGRATEFUL PEOPL
I SPENT ALMOST TWENTY YE
OF MY LIFE IN THE SERVICE O
TOWN OF SAN DIEGO, BUT W
LEFT THE PLACE, ONLY A F
CAME TO SEE ME OFF!

THE INDIOS
ARE STUPIDLY
CARELESS!

BE PRUDENT,
PADRE DAMASO, WE

ARE UNDER THE ROOF
OF AN INDIO.

THAT'S RIGHT.
CAPITAN TIAGO MIGHT
BE OFFENDED.



PADRE DAMASO DID NOT MIND HIS LISTENERS, AND...

HMP! CAPITAN TIAGO HAS LONG CONSIDERED HIMSELF A NON-INDIO. I REPEAT, NONE CAN SURPASS THE INDIOS IN IGNORANCE AND STUPIDITY!

THE LIEUTENANT WAS ABOUT TO DISAGREE WITH PADRE DAMASO WHEN...

GENTLEMEN, I TAKE PLEASURE IN INTRODUCING TO YOU THE SON OF A DEAR FRIEND WHO IS NOW DEAD, SEÑOR...

WHO COULD HE BE?

I'M GLAD TO
BE WITH ALL
OF YOU...

WHY, THIS IS
PADRE DAMASO, THE
CURATE OF SAN DIEGO!
AND MY FATHER'S
BOSOM FRIEND!

...CRISOSTOMO
IBARRA! HE HAS
JUST RETURNED
FROM EUROPE.

HAPPILY, THE YOUNG MAN
APPROACHED PADRE
DAMASO, BUT...

PLEASE ACCEPT
MY APOLOGY...
I MUST HAVE MADE

A MISTAKE...
I AM PADRE
DAMASO, ALL RIGHT!
BUT YOUR FATHER WAS
NO BOSOM FRIEND
OF MINE!

THE LIEUTENANT, IN ORDER TO SAVE IBARRA FROM FURTHER EMBARRASSMENT...

SO YOU ARE
THE SON OF
THE LATE
DON RAFAEL
IBARRA...

IBARRA HEAVED A SIGH OF RELIEF UPON HEARING THE LIEUTENANT.

THANK YOU, SEÑOR.
BUT IT IS A RELIEF
FROM A SON TO HEAR
HIS FATHER PRAISED!

AS AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT, THE

YOUNG MAN SLIGHTLY NODDED HIS HEAD...

AT YOUR
SERVICE,
SEÑOR.

YOUR FATHER WAS A
VIRTUOUS MAN, SEÑOR. MAY
THE HAPPINESS THAT WAS
DENIED HIM, BE YOURS!

I AM JUST
TELLING YOU THE
TRUTH, SEÑOR
IBARRA.

SOME MINUTES LATER, IBARRA FOUND HIMSELF EXCHANGING PLEASANTRIES WITH A GROUP OF BEAUTIFUL WOMEN...

NOTHING CAN MATCH

THE BEAUTY OF MY COUNTRYWOMEN.

WHAT GREAT LIES! BROUGHT HOME FROM EUROPE, PERHAPS!

AND WHEN THE SUMPTHOUS FEAST WAS ALMOST OVER...

SEÑOR IBARRA, IN YOUR ALMOST SEVEN YEARS OF TRAVEL IN DIFFERENT

COUNTRIES, HAVE YOU NOT FORGOTTEN YOUR COUNTRY?

SEÑOR LARUJA,

I MAY HAVE BEEN
IN EUROPE BUT
ALL THE WHILE I
HAD ACTED AND
THOUGHT LIKE A
TRUE FILIPINO!

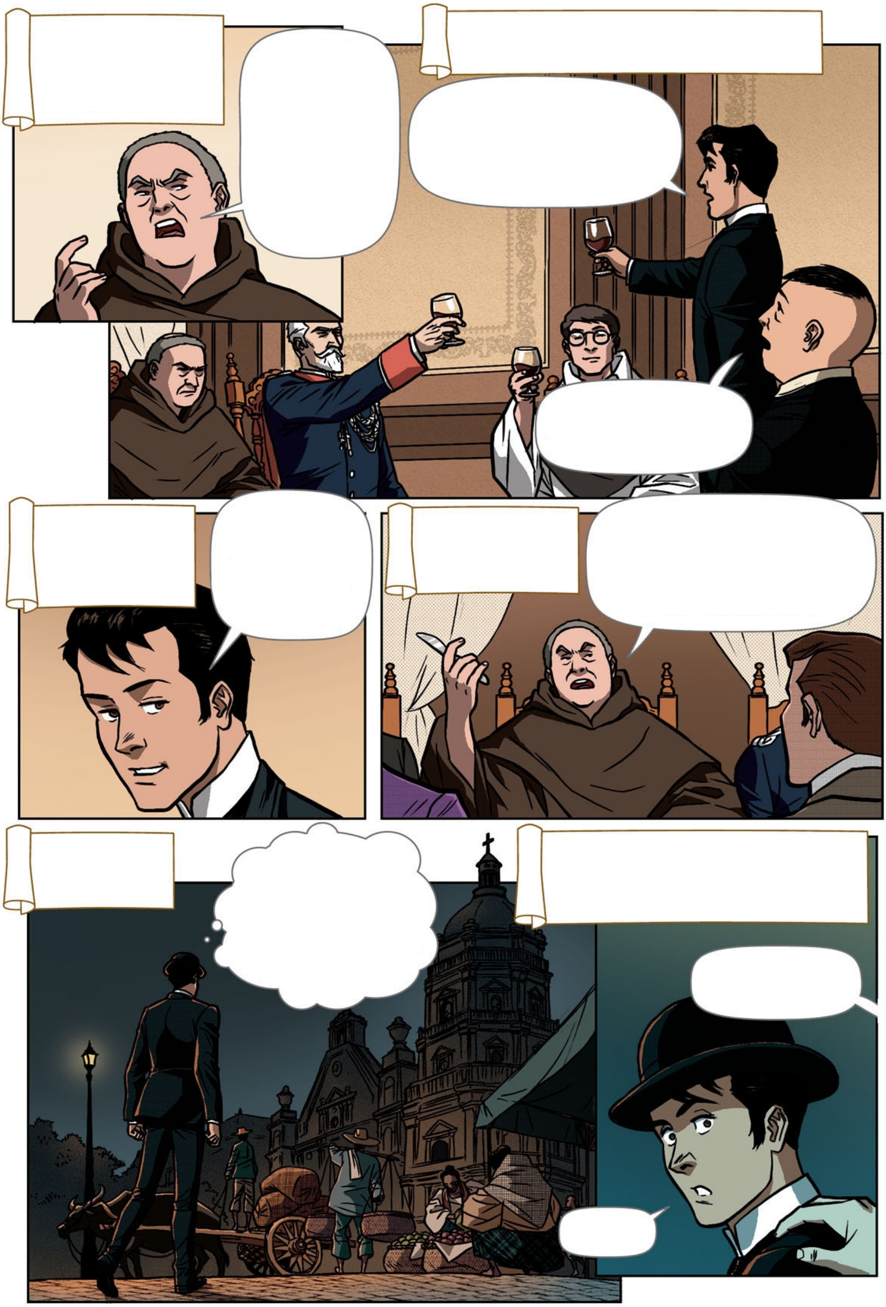
YES, DOÑA VICTORINA.
MY COUNTRY MAY HAVE
FORGOTTEN ME BUT I
THOUGHT MUCH ABOUT
IT IN ALL MY TRAVELS!

IS THAT SO,
HOMBRE?

IN YOUR OPINION,
WHICH COUNTRY IN
EUROPE IMPRESSED
YOU MOST?

AFTER LEARNING THE HISTOR

OF ONE PARTICULAR COUNTRY
EVENTUALLY LOST ALL MY GO
IMPRESSIONS ABOUT IT.



CONTEMPTUOUSLY, PADRE DAMASO CUT IN THE CONVERSATION...

YOU'RE A BLIND FOOL! ANYBODY COULD LEARN SUCH TRIFLES WITHOUT HAVING TO GO ABROAD AND SQUANDER MONEY!

INSTEAD OF RETORTING, IBARRA
GENTLY ROSE FROM HIS SEAT A

I'M SORRY I HAVE TO LEAVE YOU ALL... I STILL HAVE IMPORTANT BUSINESS MATTERS

AWAITING MY IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

MUST YOU REALLY GO? MARIA CLARA WILL SOON BE HERE!

A FAINT SMILE

PLAYED ON THE LIPS OF IBARRA, AND...

I SHALL CALL TOMORROW BEFORE I LEAVE FOR SAN DIEGO, CAPITAN TIAGO.

WHEN THE YOUNG MAN HAD LEFT...

SOMETIMES, IT'S A BIG
MISTAKE TO SEND ONE'S CHILD
TO EUROPE TO STUDY! HE THINKS
HIGHLY OF HIMSELF AND
BECOMES ARROGANT!

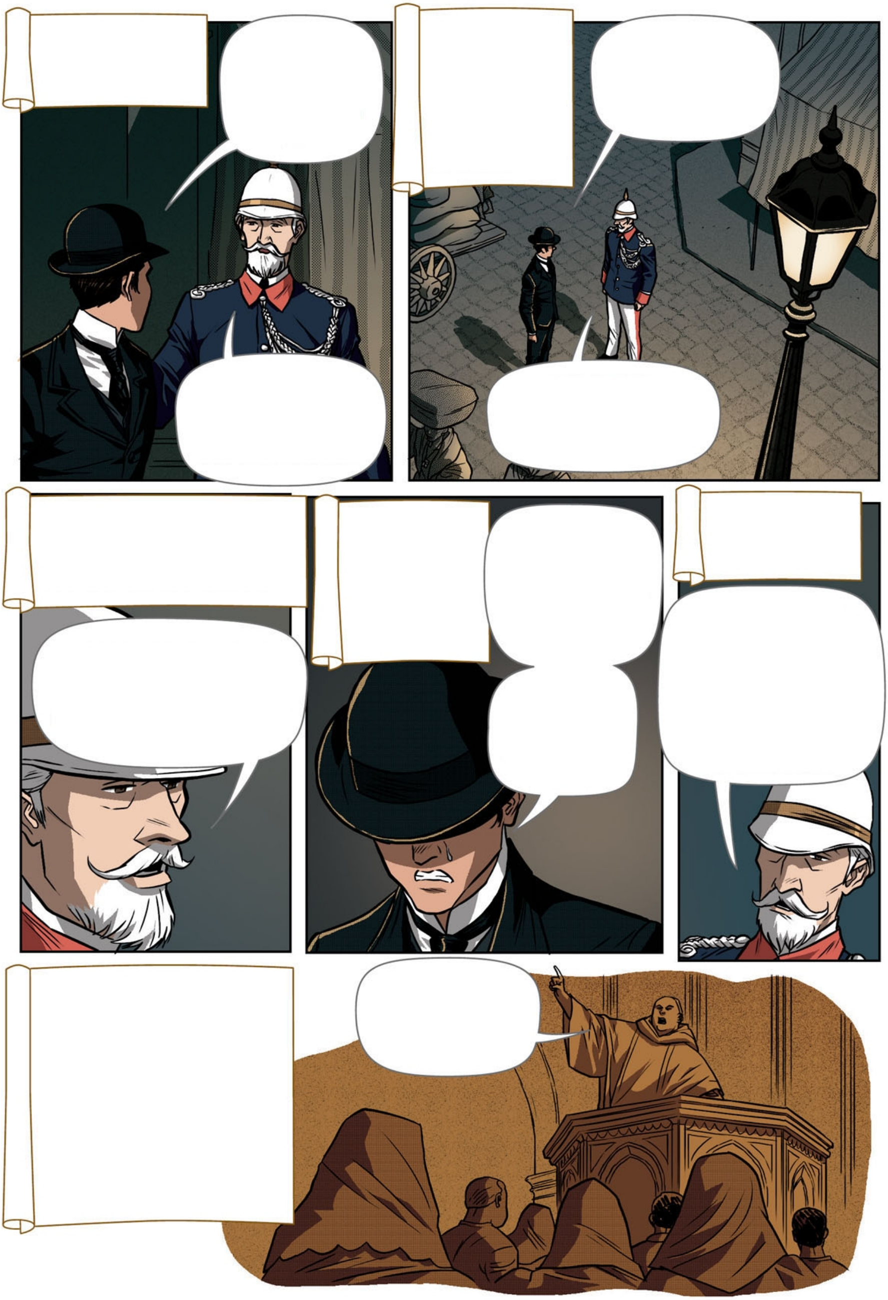
OUT IN THE
STREET...

FOR HOW LONG WILL
THE BROWN RACE
REMAIN DESPISED?
WILL THERE BE NO END
TO THE SUFFERINGS OF
THE ORIENTALS?

THE YOUNG MAN'S MUTTERINGS
WERE SUDDENLY INTERRUPTED
WHEN...

HAVE PRUDENCE,
YOUNG MAN!

HMMM?



IBARRA QUICKLY LOOKED BACK, AND...

I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS YOU, LIEUTENANT! YOU SURPRISED ME!

IBARRA BECAME EVEN MORE SURPRISED TO HEAR THE OFFICER'S ADVICE...

CAREFUL OF WHAT, LIEUTENANT? LIKE MY LATE FATHER, I

HAVE NO ENEMIES! PARDON ME, SEÑOR IBARRA... BUT I ONLY WANT TO ADVISE YOU TO BE CAREFUL!

VERY OFTEN, OVERCONFIDENCE COULD LEAD A MAN TO SOME MISFORTUNES!

THE LIEUTENANT PAUSED FOR A MOMENT AS THOUGH TRYING TO WEIGH HIS THOUGHTS, THEN...

UP TO THE LAST HOUR OF HIS LIFE WHILE IN CONFINEMENT, DON RAFAEL COULD NOT BELIEVE HE HAD SOME SECRET ENEMIES!

A TEAR
ROLLED
DOWN
IBARRA'S
CHEEKS, AND
IN A BROKEN
VOICE...

NOW I KNOW WHY CAPITAN TIAGO REFUSED TO GIVE ME DETAILS ABOUT MY FATHER'S DEATH...

BUT WHY WAS HE IMPRISONED? WHAT WERE HIS FAULTS?

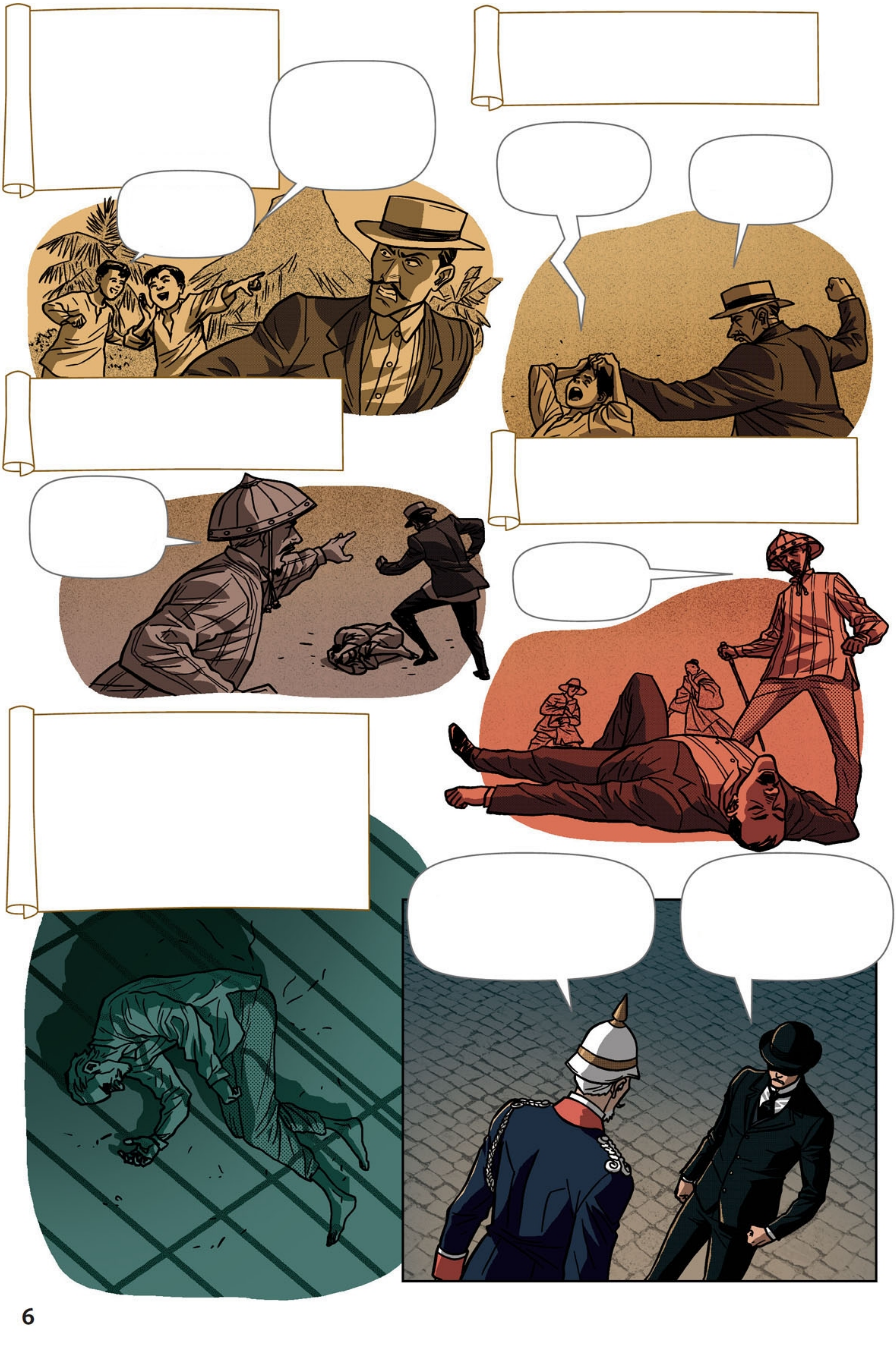
THE OFFICER SHOOK HIS HEAD, THEN...

YOUR FATHER WAS ONE OF THE RICHEST MEN IN SAN DIEGO. HE WAS WELL LOVED AND RESPECTED BY MANY. BUT HE WAS ALSO HATED AND ENVIED BY SOME OF HIS FELLOWMEN.

"BECAUSE HE HAD A DIFFERENT PHILOSOPHY IN LIFE, HE WAS SUSPECTED OF BEING A FILIBUSTER AND A HERETIC. FROM THE PULPIT, PADRE

DAMASO MADE KNOWN HIS DENUNCIATIONS, ALTHOUGH NO NAME WAS MENTIONED..."

NO ONE IS AS EVIL AS AN IGNORANT WHO PRETENDS TO BE WISE!



"ONE DAY A GROUP OF CHILDREN TEASED A SPANISH TAX COLLECTOR WHOSE IGNORANCE AND STUPIDITY EVERYBODY KNEW..."

WAAA!

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO WRITE! WHAT IS THE PENCIL FOR?

HIS STOMACH IS WISER, YOU KNOW!

"SHAKING WITH ANGER, THE TAX COLLECTOR RAN AFTER THEM, AND..."

OUCH! I WAS JUST KIDDING!

OUCHHH!

I'M GOING TO BREAK YOUR BONES!

"YOUR FATHER SAW WHAT WAS HAPPENING AND RAN UP TO STOP THE SPANIARD, BUT..."

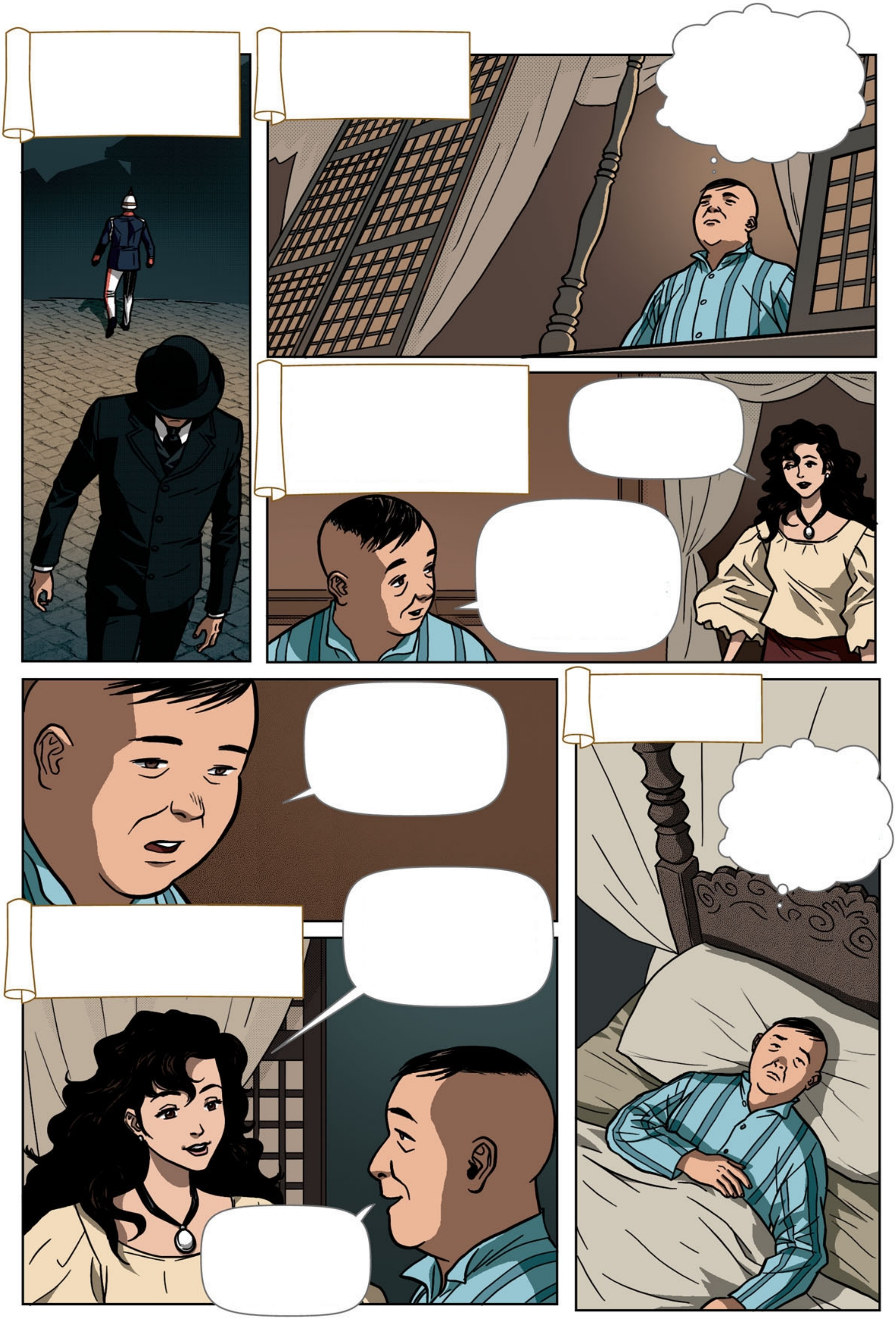
STOP IT, PLEASE! HE'S ONLY A LITTLE CHILD!

"INSTEAD, THE MAN RAISED HIS HAND TO STRIKE YOUR FATHER WHO AVERTED THE BLOW, AND..."

THAT SERVES YOU RIGHT!

"UNFORTUNATELY, THE TAX COLLECTOR DIED OF HEMORRHAGE WHEN HE FELL AND HIS HEAD STRUCK AGAINST A STONE. YOUR FATHER WAS IMPRISONED AND WHEN HE WAS ABOUT TO BE ACQUITTED, HE SUCCUMBED TO HIS ILLNESS..."

SEÑOR IBARRA, I WILL LEAVE THE REST OF THE STORY TO CAPITAN TIAGO. IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GO. IT'S ONLY NOW THAT I LEARNED THE TRUTH ABOUT HIS DEATH! MY POOR FATHER!



NOT LONG AFTER,
THE TWO BADE
EACH OTHER
GOODBYE...
MEANWHILE, AT
CAPITAN TIAGO'S
HOUSE...

I'M SURE
THEY WERE ALL
SATISFIED. IT'S TOO
BAD IBARRA HAD TO
LEAVE EARLY.

AT THIS JUNCTURE,
CAPITAN TIAGO WAS
DISTURBED WHEN
MARIA CLARA, HIS ONLY
CHILD, CAME IN...

YOU SEEM TO BE

IN DEEP THOUGHT, FATHER. WHY?

NOTHING OF CONSEQUENCE, HIJA. I WAS JUST THANKING THE LORD FOR ALL THE GOOD FORTUNE HE GAVE TO US. BUT WE WOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPIER HAD YOUR MOTHER NOT DIED EARLY...

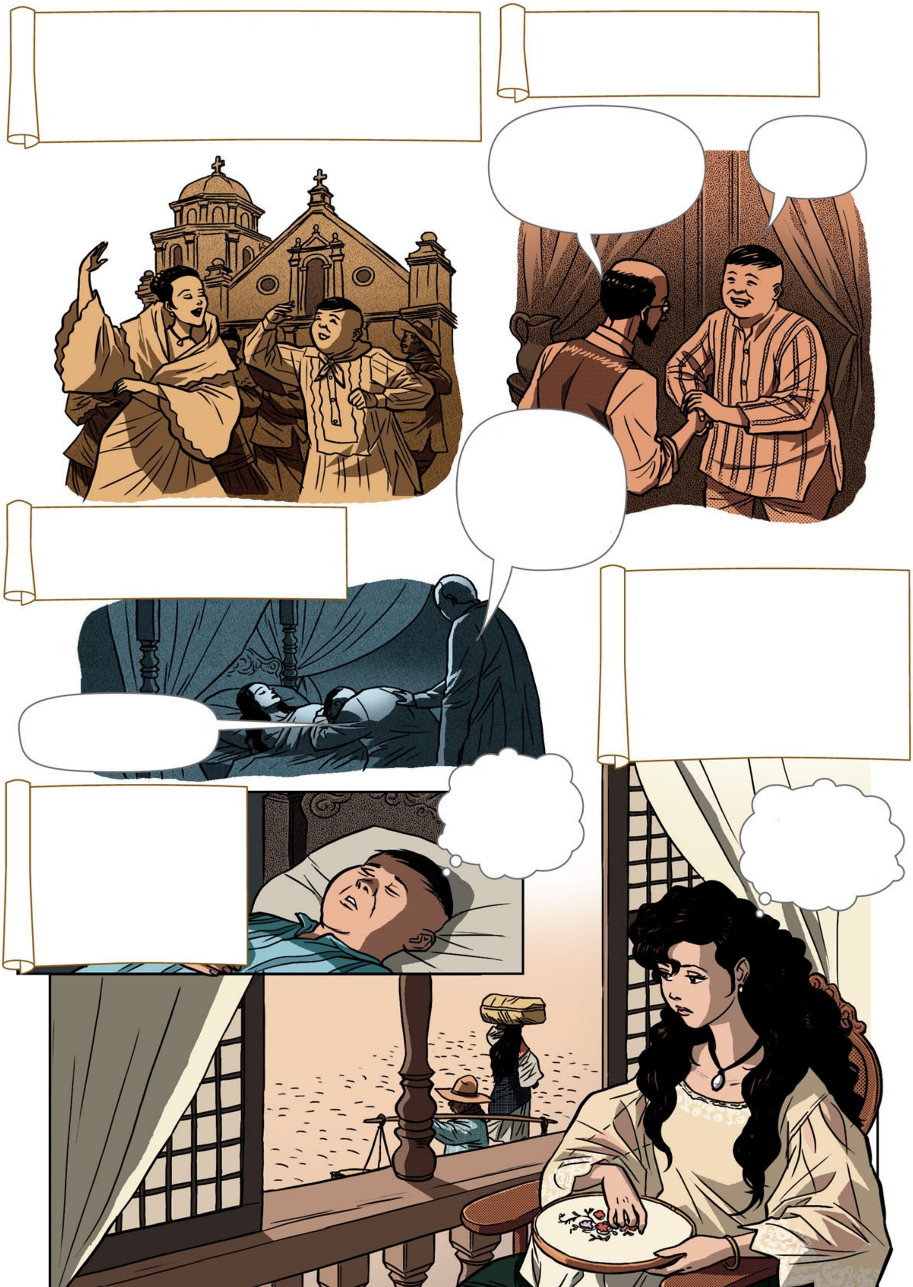
THE GIRL NOTICED A NOTE OF SADNESS IN HER FATHER'S VOICE, AND...

FORGET THE GLOOMY PAST, FATHER! BETTER GO TO BED. YOU LOOK

VERY TIRED TONIGHT.
I'M REALLY
FORTUNATE TO
HAVE A VIRTUOUS
CHILD LIKE YOU.

SOME MINUTES
LATER...

IF PIA WERE
ALIVE TODAY,
MY HAPPINESS
WOULD HAVE BEEN
COMPLETED...



PICTURES OF THE PAST FLASHED LIGHTNING INTO THE WEARY MIND CAPITAN TIAGO. PIA'S DANCING IN AFTER SIX MONTHS OF CHILDLES LIFE...

... AND THE JOYS OF FATHERHOOD AFTER A FEW MORE MONTHS...

CONGRATULATIONS, MY FRIEND. YOUR FIRST BORN IS A HEALTHY GIRL.

GRACIAS, DOCTOR...

BUT ALL JOY AND HAPPINESS TURNED TO GLOOM WHEN HIS WIFE PASSED AWAY...

IT'S THE WILL

OF GOD, TIAGO...
THERE'S NOTHING
WE CAN DO BUT
ACCEPT HER FATE.

MY WIFE, WHY DID YOU
LEAVE US ALONE?

CAPITAN TIAGO
BREATHED DEEPLY
AND LET LOOSE
A HEAVY SIGH. HE
FELT SOMEWHAT
RELIEVED.

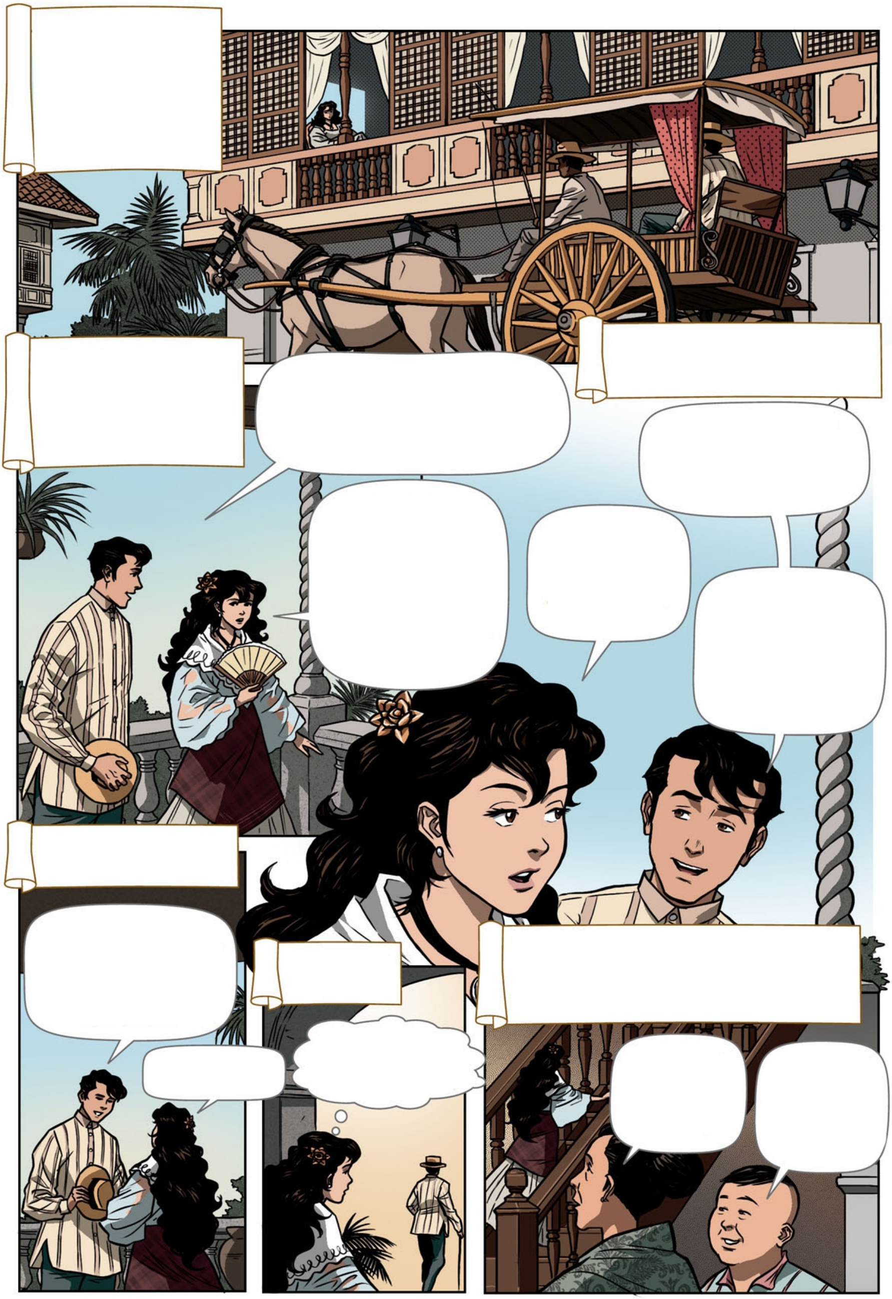
MOMENTS LATER...

MAY HER
SOUL REST
IN PEACE WITH
THE LORD...

THE NEXT MORNING, MARIA

CLARA BUSIED HERSELF DOING SOME EMBROIDERY WORK. BUT THERE WAS NO DENYING THE FACT THAT SHE WAS WAITING FOR A SPECIAL GUEST.

IT'S
NOONTIME.
WHAT COULD
HAVE DELAYED
HIM?



HER IMPATIENCE
FINALLY TURNED
TO JOY WHEN
SHE CAUGHT
SIGHT OF HER
ARRIVING GUEST.
AND IN NO TIME,
THE YOUNG LOVERS
WERE SITTING SIDE
BY SIDE AT THE
AZOTEA...

I'M FORTUNATE OUR PARENTS MA
AN ARRANGEMENT CONCERNING
RARELY CAN A MAN FIND A WOM
AS LOVELY AS YOU!

YOUR TONGUE IS
AS SWEET AS EVER.
YOU MUST HAVE

CAPTURED THE ADMIRATION OF MANY BEAUTIFUL WOMEN IN THE COUNTRIES YOU HAD BEEN TO.

THE YOUNG MAN SMILED AT THE INSINUATION, AND...

YOU'RE LYING! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CAN CLOSE YOUR EYES TO OTHER BEAUTIES!

MY SWEETHEART IS A PARAGON OF VIRTUE AND BEAUTY. I NEED NOT LOOK FOR ANOTHER ONE!

BEAUTY IS A MATTER OF TASTE.

IT LIES NOT ON THE BEARER BUT ON THE LOOKER. DEEP IN MY HEART, YOU ARE MY ONLY BELOVED!

AFTER A FEW MORE MINUTES...

I'M SORRY I HAVE TO LEAVE NOW. TOMORROW IS ALL SAINTS' DAY AND I HAVE TO GO HOME TO SAN DIEGO.

I UNDERSTAND, IBARRA...

NOT LONG AFTER...

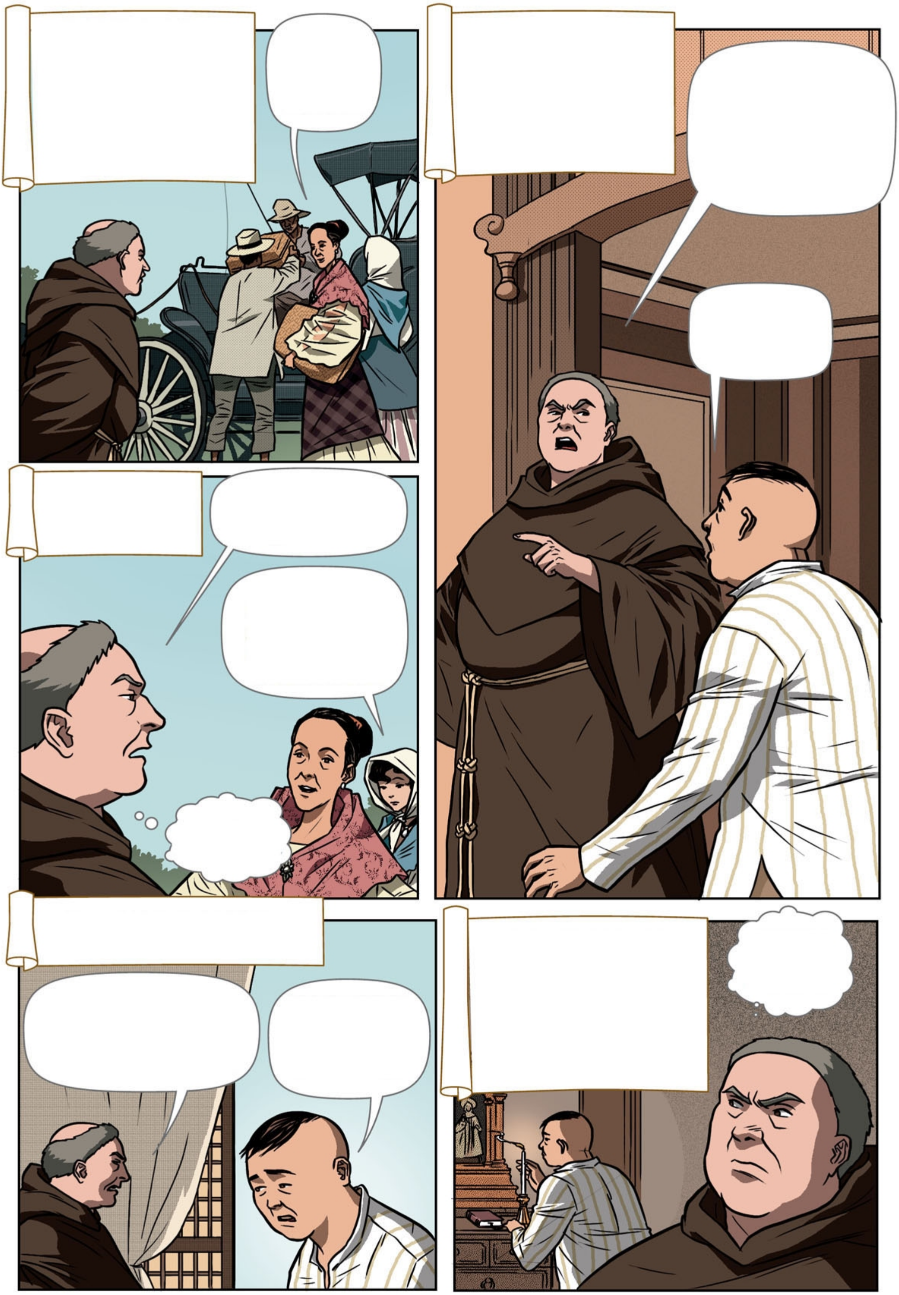
OH LORD... PLEASE KEEP WATCH OVER

MY SWEETHEART!

WITH A HEAVY HEART, MARIA CLAR
RETURNED UPSTAIRS. HER UNHAP
FEELING DID NOT ESCAPE HER
FATHER AND HER AUNT ISABEL.

LOOK WHAT
LOVE CAN DO...
IT'S SWEET AND
BITTER!

HOW DID
YOU KNOW?
HAVE YOU EVER
BEEN IN LOVE?
HE HE HE!



THE FOLLOWING MORNING, AS MARIA CLARA AND HER AUNT ISABEL WERE ABOUT TO BOARD A CARRIAGE, PADRE DAMASO ARRIVED.

GOOD MORNING, PADRE DAMASO...

THE PRIEST GREETED BACK AND...

I SEE THAT YOU TWO ARE LEAVING. WHERE TO, HIJA?

TO THE CONVENT,

PADRE... TO BRING HOME MY THINGS. I WON'T BE GOING BACK ANYMORE!

LET'S SEE ABOUT THAT...

AFTER THE TWO HAD LEFT, PADRE DAMASO WENT UPSTAIRS, HIS HEAD BOWED IN DEEP THOUGHT. THEN...

SANTIAGO, I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT A VERY IMPORTANT MATTER. LET'S GO TO WHERE NO ONE COULD BOTHER US.

WHAT ABOUT,
PADRE
DAMASO?

AND WHEN THE SECRET CONFERENCE WAS OVER...

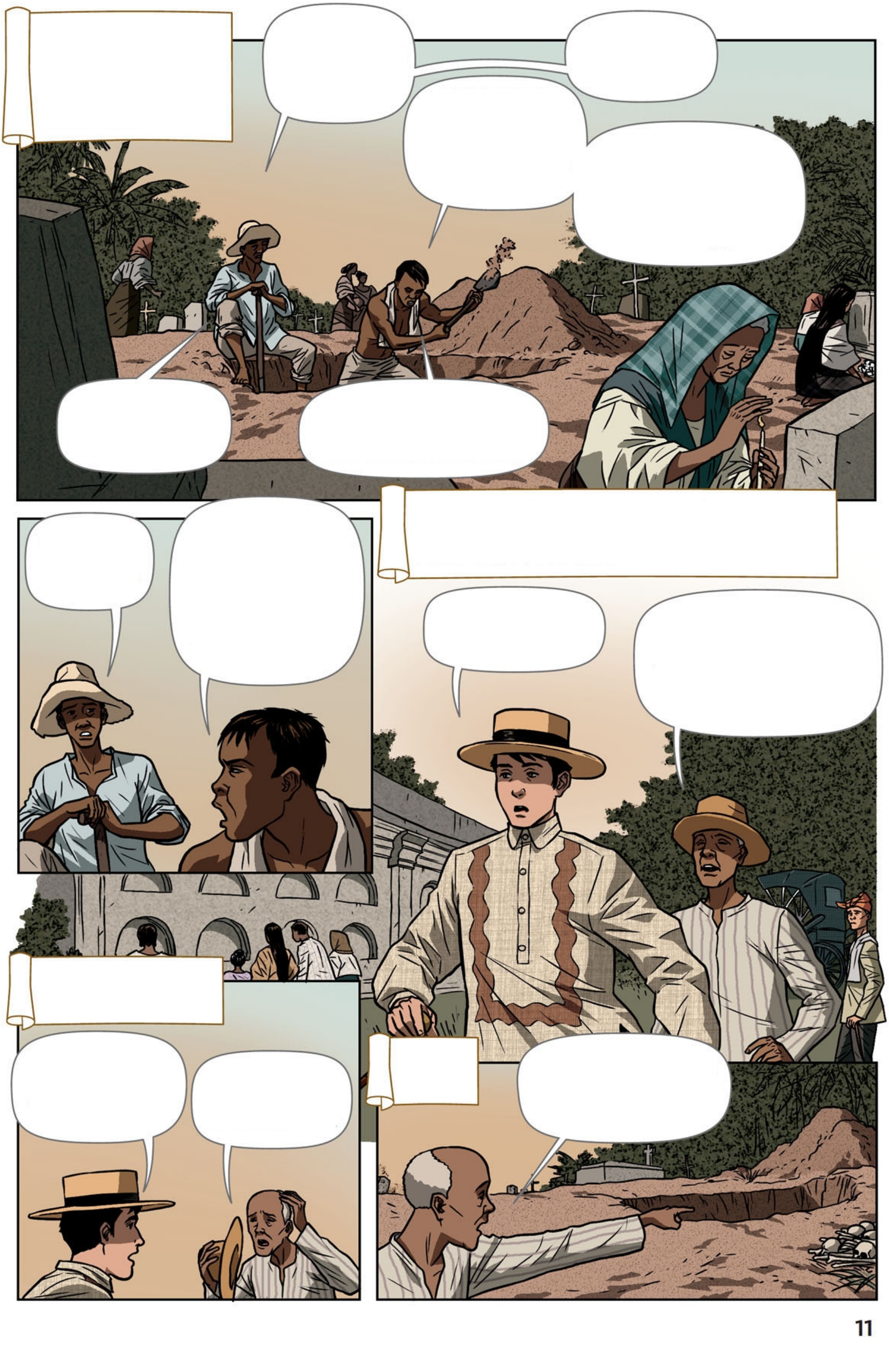
CONSIDER STRONGLY WHAT I SAID, SANTIAGO. I HAVE NO OTHER INTEREST EXCEPT YOUR WELFARE.

I UNDERSTAND, PADRE DAMASO. YOUR WISH WILL BE GRANTED!

BOTHERED BY WHAT THE PRIEST TOLD HIM, CAPITAN TIAGO WENT TO HIS ALTAR AND BLEW OFF THE TWO

CANDLES INTENDED FOR IBARRA.

MY WISH
PREVAILED
AFTER ALL!



MEANWHILE, IN SAN DIEGO, TWO GRAVEDIGGERS CONVERSED WHILE WORKING.

WERE YOU NOT HORRIFIED WHEN YOU DUG THE CORPSE?

AND WHY DID YOU HAVE TO DIG HIS GRAVE?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? MY KNEES ALMOST BUCKLED UNDER, SHAKING IN FEAR!

WHY? CAN I SAY NO TO

THE HIGH PRIEST? THAT
WOULD BE THE END
OF ME IF I REFUSED TO
OBEY HIM!

AFTER THAT, WHAT
DID YOU DO WITH
THE BODY, BERTO?

THE FAT FRIAR ORDERED ME
TO BURY THE CORPSE IN
THE CHINESE CEMETERY!

AND DID YOU
DO AS YOU
WERE TOLD?

OH, SHUT UP AND
GO ON DIGGING! THE
BODY TO BE BURIED
HERE WILL ARRIVE
SOONER OR LATER

AND WE MIGHT RUN
OUT OF TIME!

SOME MOMENTS
LATER...

I THOUGHT YOU
KNEW WHERE TO
FIND MY FATHER'S
GRAVE?

I REALLY DON'T
UNDERSTAND
HOW I GOT LOST!

AND BECAUSE IT WAS ALL SAINTS
LONELY CEMETERY ONCE AGAIN
ALIVE WITH PEOPLE...

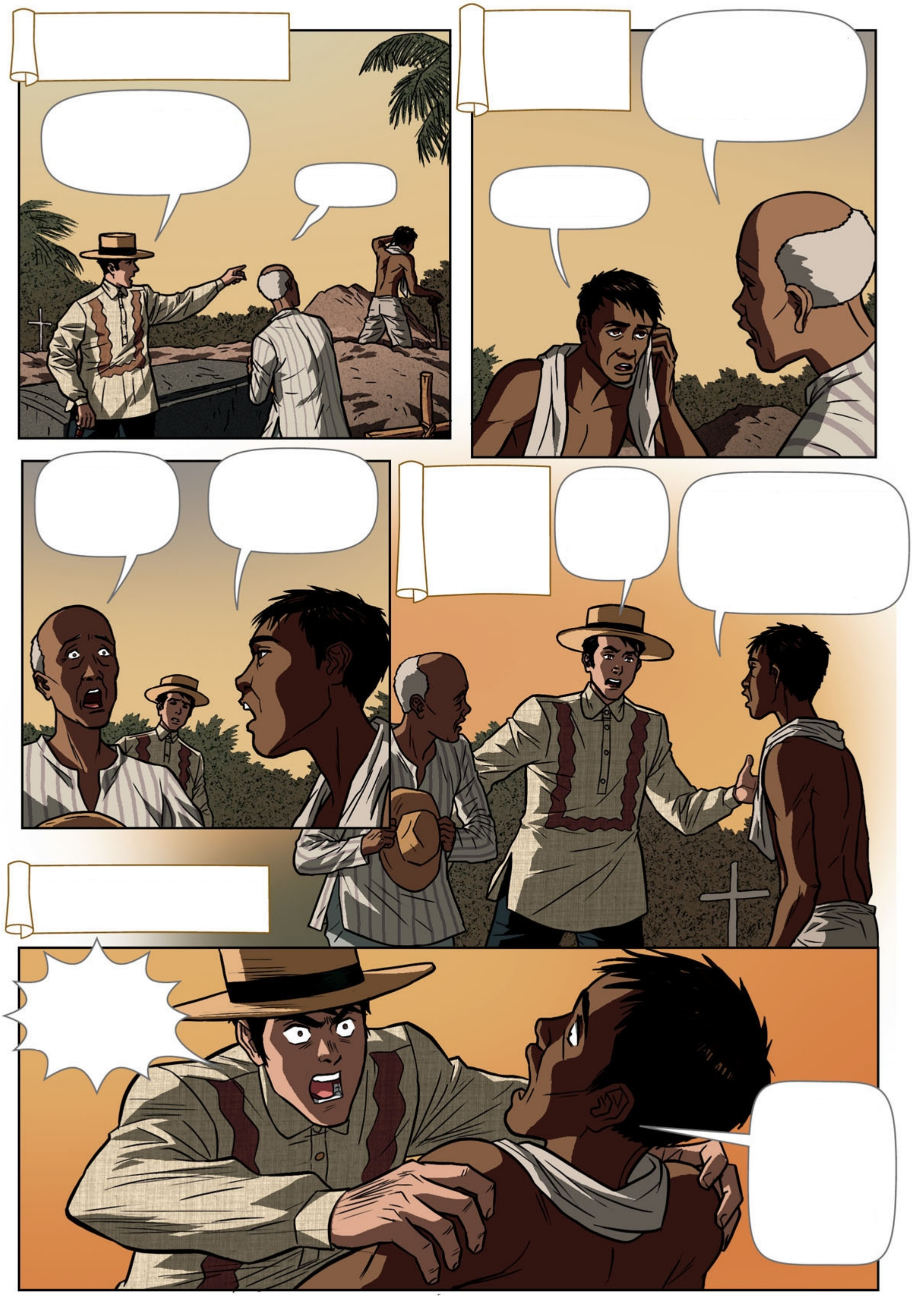
DO YOU KNOW
WHERE WE CAN FIND
HIS GRAVE?

YES, SEÑORITO. I MARKED

HIS GRAVE WITH A BIG CROSS BEARING HIS NAME SO THAT I WOULD NOT FORGET IT.

THEN...

I REMEMBER IT WAS ON THAT SPOT THAT HE WAS BURIED...



IBARRA WAS GETTING IMPATIENT...

SUPPOSE YOU TRY TO INQUIRE FROM THOSE GRAVEDIGGERS!

YES, SIR!

AND THE SERVANT ACTED PROMPTLY...

CAN YOU TELL US WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BIG WOODEN CROSS ON THAT GRAVE YONDER?

AH, THAT ONE?

I HAD IT BURNED!

WHAT?!

WHAT DID YOU

DO THAT FOR?

I WAS ORDERED
BY THE FAT
PRIEST TO DO SO!

IBARRA
SUDDENLY
LOST HIS
TEMPER
AND...

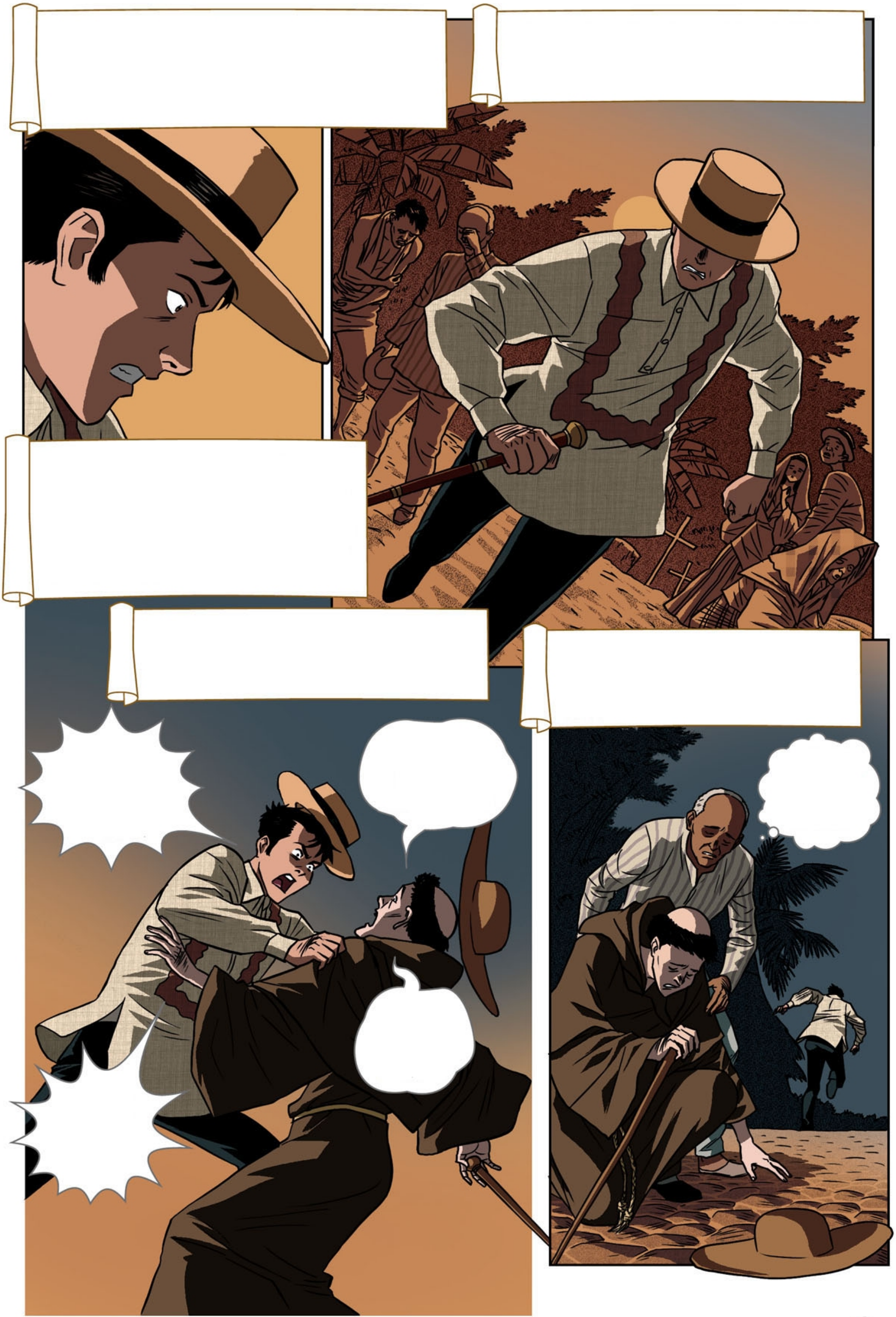
AND THE
DEAD?
WHERE IS
THE BODY?

THE FAT CURATE ORDERED
ME TO DIG IT AND HAD IT
BURIED IN THE CHINESE
CEMETERY! THAT WAS
SOME MONTHS AGO, SIR!

IBARRA'S BLOOD WAS BOILING MAD, AND...

AND DID YOU DO AS YOU WERE TOLD?!

NO, SIR! THERE WAS A STORM THEN, THE BODY WAS HEAVY... SO I THREW THE CORPSE INTO THE LAKE.



STUNNED, IBARRA COULD DO NO BUT STARE AT THE GRAVEDIGGER FACE, AN UNDEFINABLE EXPRES WRITTEN ALL OVER HIS FACE.

AND WHEN HE COULD NO LONGE CONTAIN HIS ANGER, HE QUICKLY TURNED AND WALK AWAY.

THE AGITATED YOUNG MAN MET FATHER SALVI ON HIS WAY HOME HE GAZED AT THE PRIEST LONG AND INTENTLY. AFTER A MOMENT HESITATION, IBARRA STEPPED U TO THE PRIEST...

GRABBING THE PRIEST BY THE SHOULDERS, HIS VOICE WAS HARSH WHEN HE SPOKE...

IBARRA LEFT THE TERROR-STRICKEN PRIEST AND MARCHED

AWAY WITHOUT EVER LOOKING BACK.

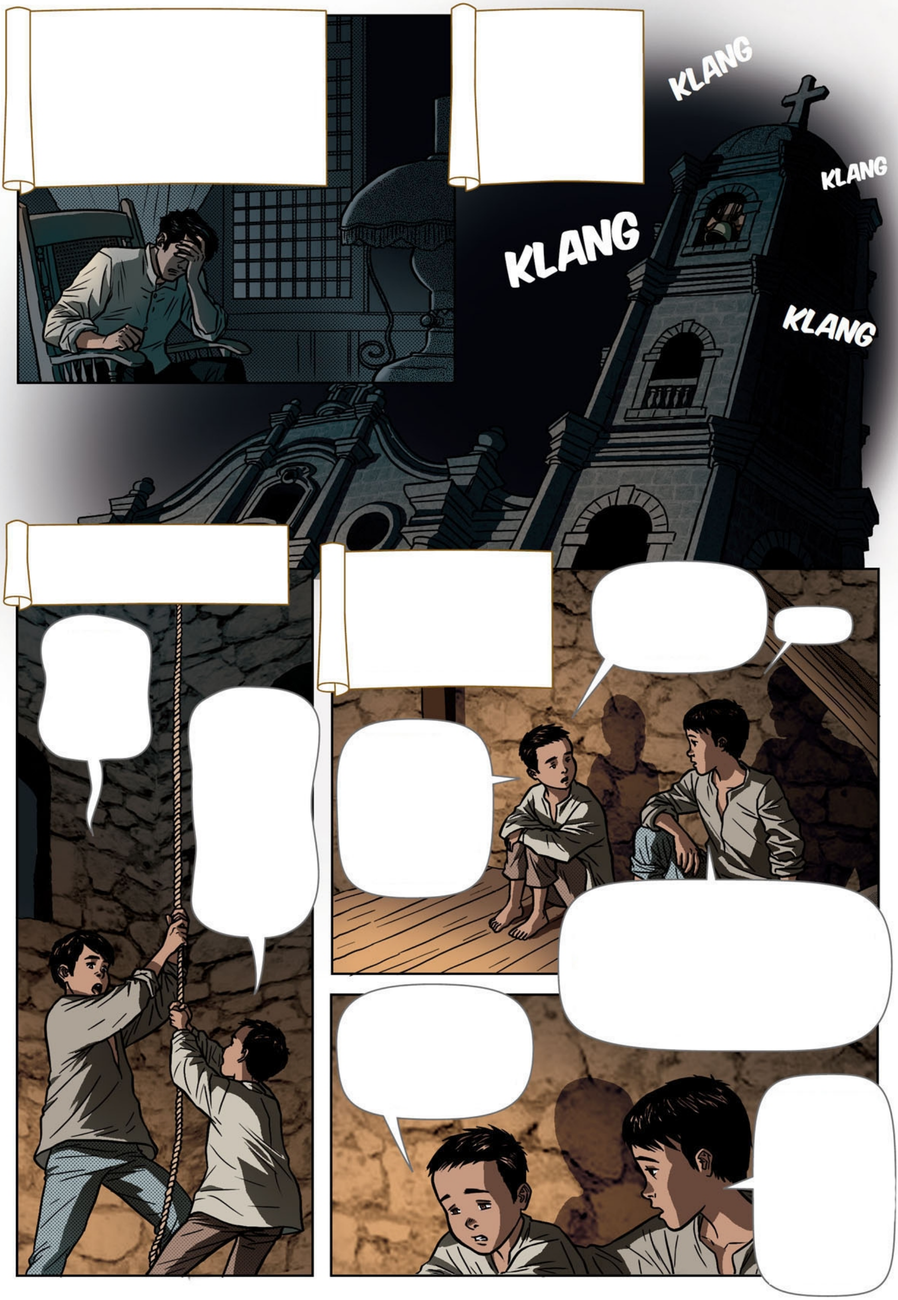
YOU! WHAT DID
YOU DO WITH
MY FATHER?
TELL ME!

NO, I HAD
NOTHING
TO DO WITH
YOUR FATHER!

IF IT WAS
NOT YOU,
WHO DID
IT THEN?

IT WAS
FATHER...
FATHER
DAMASO!

I CAN'T
BLAME HIM
FOR WHAT
HE DID.


KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG

ALMOST IN A STATE OF MADNESS, IBARRA HURRIED HOME. AND WHEN HE WAS ALL ALONE IN HIS ROOM, HE GAVE IN TO HIS FEELINGS BY CRYING LIKE HE HAD NEVER CRIED BEFORE.

THE YOUNG MAN BECAME COMPLETELY OBLIVIOUS OF TIME. HE REMAINED SO UNTIL...

MEANWHILE, ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE CHURCH BELFRY...

THAT'S

ENOUGH,
CRISPIN.
LET'S TAKE
A REST!

YES,
BROTHER.
BUT LET'S
RING IT ONCE
MORE OR THE
SACRISTAN-
MAYOR
WOULD GET
ANGRY AT
US AGAIN.

SILENTLY, THE TWO BOYS SAT IN ONE CORNER OF THE CHURCH BELFRY.

MOMENTS LATER...

BASILIO, HOW
MUCH SALARY WILL
YOU RECEIVE THIS
MONTH?

WHY?

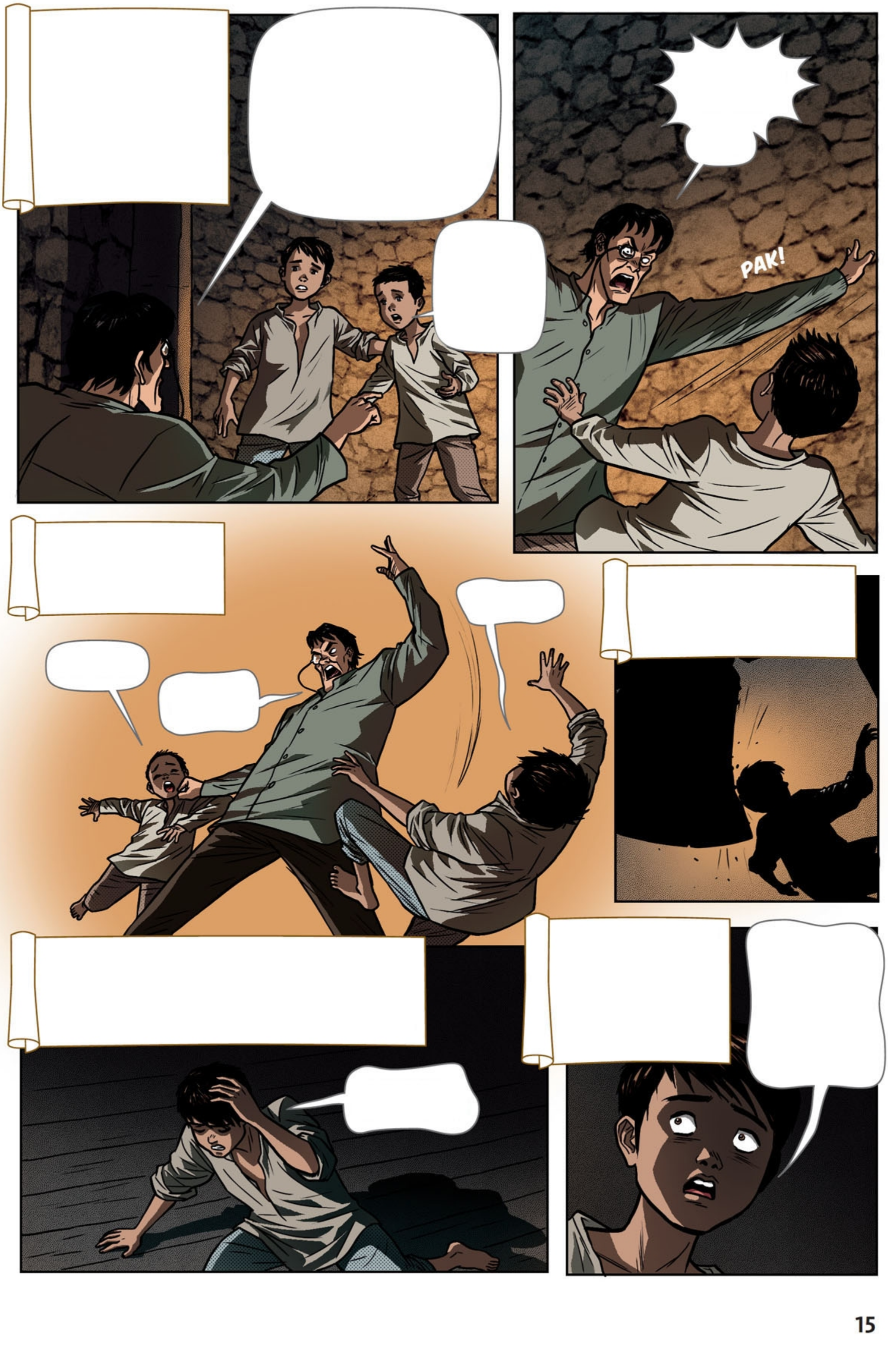
I WOULD LIKE
TO ASK YOU
TO PAY THE
AMOUNT
THAT THEY
ACCUSED ME OF
STEALING.

I CAN'T, CRISPIN. AFTER BEING
TWICE, I SHALL GET NOTHING B
PESOS! BESIDES, THE PIECES O
YOU WERE ACCUSED OF STEAL
ACCORDING TO THEM, WORTH T

TWO PESOS!

BUT I DID NOT STEAL ANY! IF MOTHER LEARNS ABOUT THIS, I'M AFRAID SHE WILL SCOLD ME.

STOP CRYING, CRISPIN. WHATEVER HAPPENS, LET'S LEAVE IT TO GOD! BE STRONG AND DON'T LOSE HOPE!


PAK!

SUDDENLY, THE
SACRISTAN-MAYOR
APPEARED OUT
OF NOWHERE,
AND THE LITTLE
BOYS WERE
PARALYZED WITH
TERROR.

BASILIO, FOR FAILURE TO RING THE BELLS AT THE RIGHT TIME, I FINE YOU TWO REALES. AND YOU CRISPIN... YOU CANNOT GO HOME TONIGHT UNLESS YOU GIVE BACK THE MONEY YOU HAVE STOLEN!

BUT I DID NOT STEAL

ANY GOLD!
I DID NOT
STEAL ANY!
YOU SON OF
A LIAR!

UM!

BASILIO TRIED
TO PROTECT HIS
BROTHER, BUT...

BROTHER!
TAKE
THIS! UM!
AAAHH!

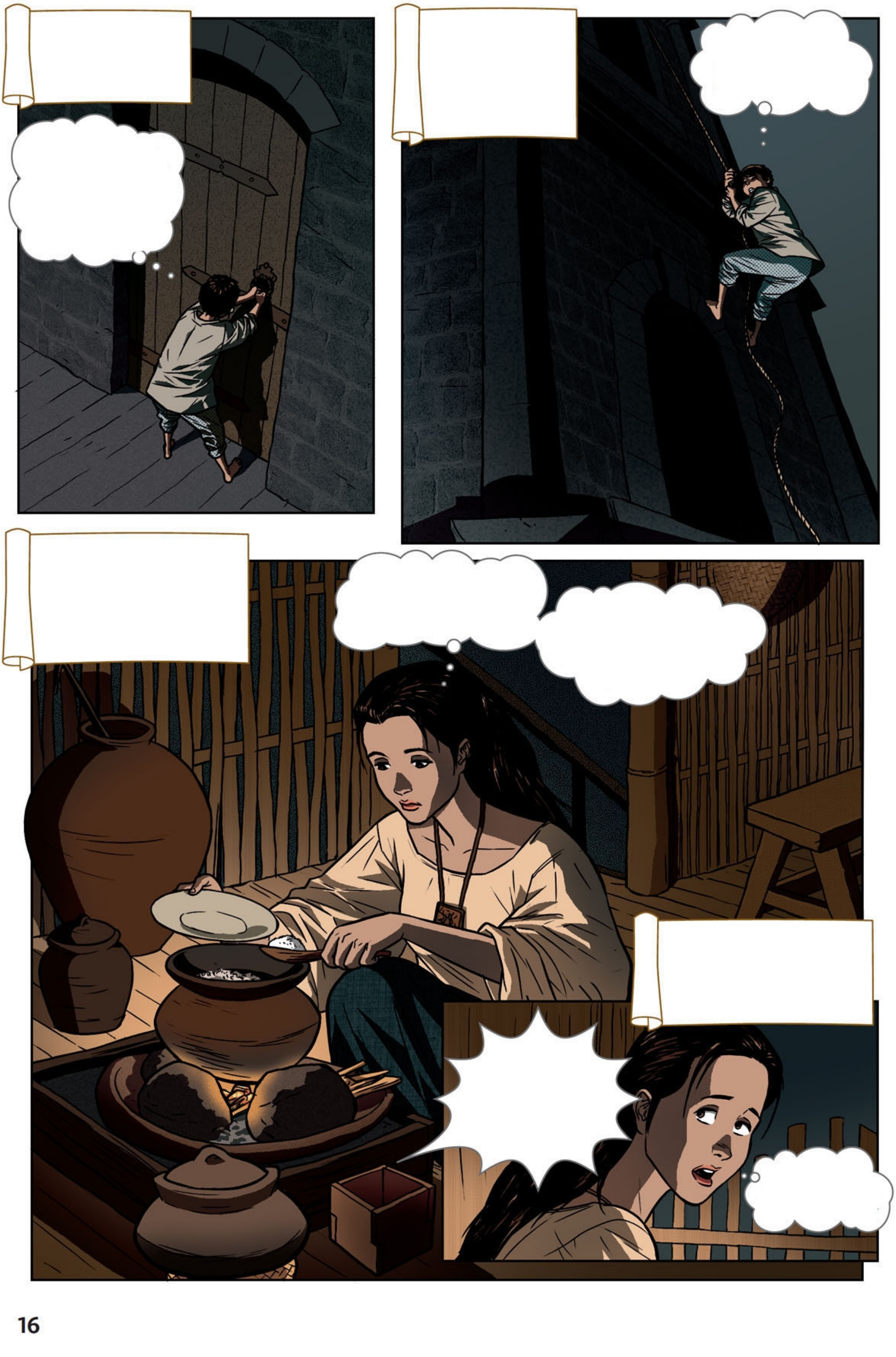
AS A RESULT OF THE
BLOW, BASILIO LOST
HIS BALANCE, AND...
HIS HEAD BUMPED AGAINST THE
AND EVERYTHING WENT DARK BE

HIS EYES. IT WAS LATE IN THE N
WHEN HE REGAINED CONSCIOUS

MY HEAD...
HOW IT HURTS!

IT TOOK BASILIO SOME TIME BEFORE HE REMEMBERED WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM.

WHERE COULD MY BROTHER BE? IT'S FRIGHTENING IN HERE! IT'S VERY DARK.



BASILIO TRIED
TO ESCAPE,
BUT...

ALL THE DOORS
ARE LOCKED! HOW
COULD I GET OUT
OF HERE? AH,
I KNOW...

BASILIO RAN
UP TO THE
THIRD STORY.
IN A SHORT
WHILE...

IF I FALL DOWN,
I WILL NEVER SEE
MOTHER AGAIN...

MEANWHILE, IN THE
OUTSKIRTS OF

TOWN, SISA WAS
BUSY PREPARING
FOOD FOR DINNER.

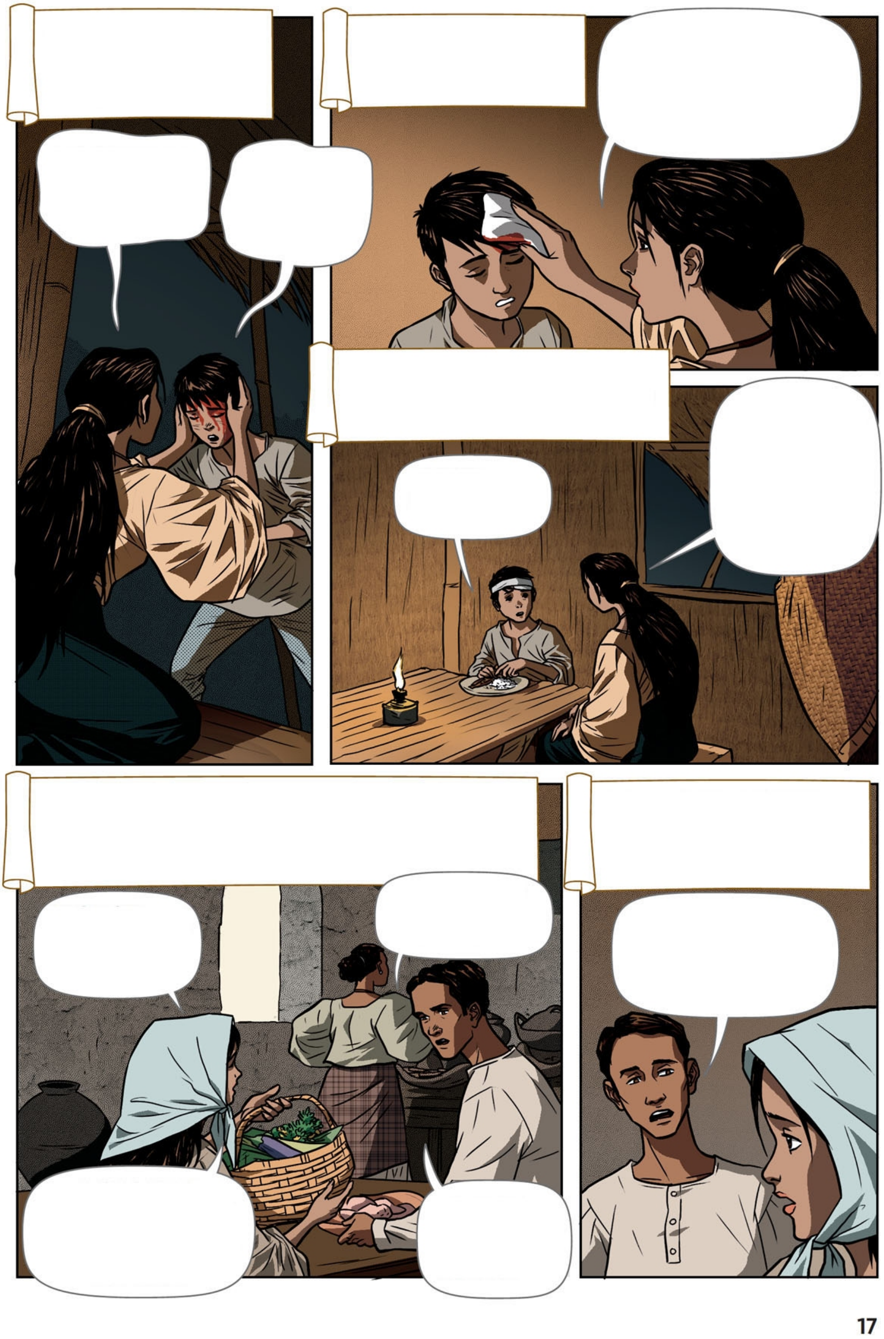
I CAN ALMOST SEE
CRISPIN AND BASILIO
FEELING VERY HUNGRY!
POOR CHILDREN!
HOW I WISH THEIR FATHER
WERE NOT A NE'ER-DO-WELL AND...

SUDDENLY, SHE WAS
STARTLED TO HEAR
A HEART-RENDING
CRY OUTSIDE...

MOTHER!
MOTHER!
OPEN THE DOOR!

MY GOD!

THAT'S BASILIO!



SISA SHIVERED IN
FEAR WHEN SHE SAW
THE BLOODY FACE OF
HER SON.

WHAT HAPPENED
TO YOU, SON?
WHY ARE YOU
CRYING?

IT'S CRISPIN,
MOTHER. HE
WAS LEFT AT THE
CONVENT!

BASILIO THEN TOLD
THE WHOLE STORY TO
HIS MOTHER.

DON'T WORRY, SON. I WILL GO
TOMORROW TO THE CONVENT.
I WILL TALK TO THE CURATE

AND ASK HIM TO LET YOUR BROTHER GO HOME.

SISA NOTICED THAT HER SON WAS GETTING HUNGRY AND SHE IMMEDIATELY SET THE TABLE.

NOTHING ELSE BUT DRIED FISH, MOTHER?

YES, SON. I PREPARED SOME GOOD FOOD FOR YOU AND CRISPIN BUT WHEN YOUR FATHER ARRIVED, HE ATE ALL OF IT!

THE NEXT DAY, SISA LEFT EARLY
CONVENT. SHE BROUGHT WITH

OF CHOICE VEGETABLES THAT SH
FROM HER BACKYARD GARDEN.

KINDLY GIVE THIS HUMBLE PRESENT OF MINE TO THE CURATE...

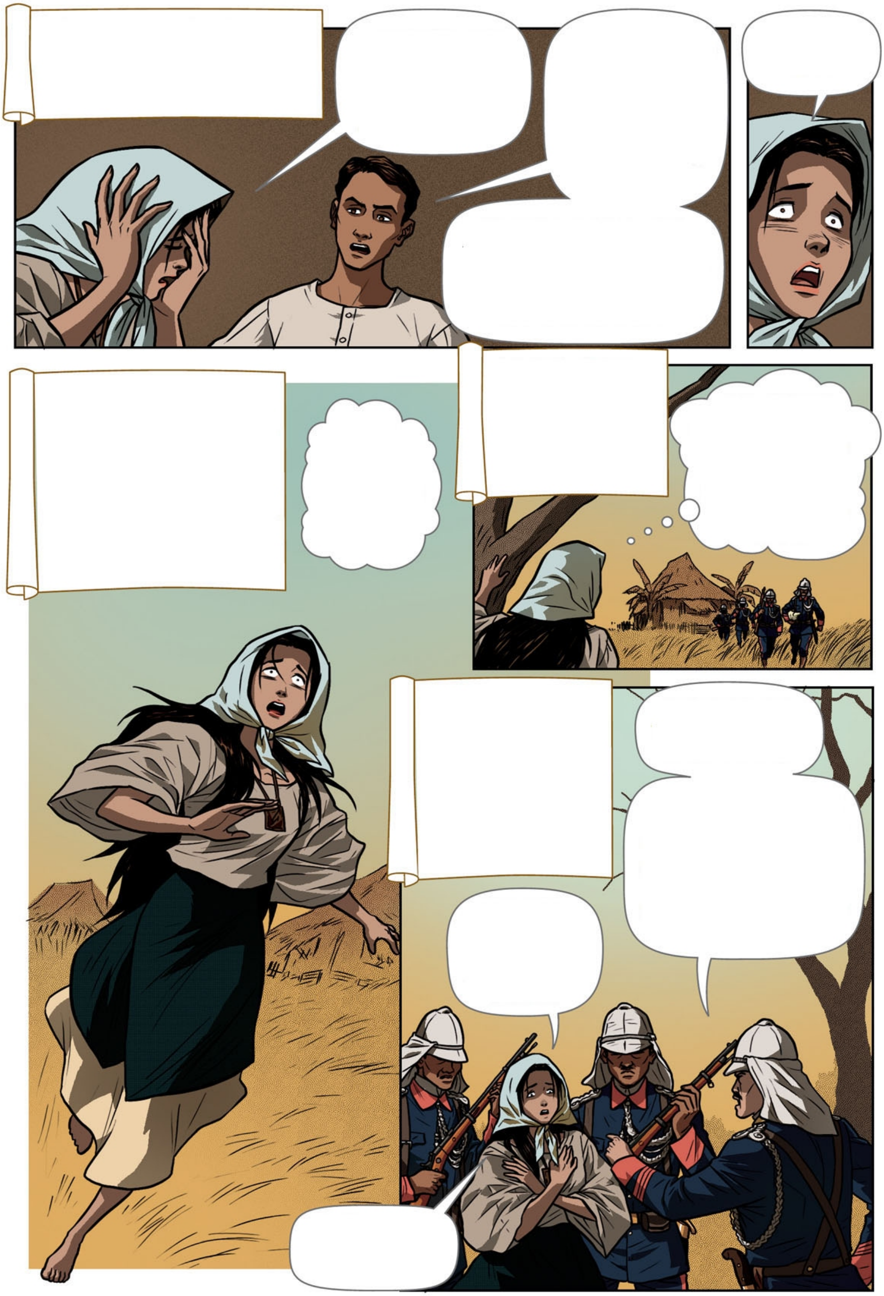
WHY? ARE YOU ASKING ANY FAVORS FROM HIM?

I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK WITH THE CURATE ABOUT MY SON CRISPIN. HE DID NOT ARRIVE HOME LAST NIGHT!

CRISPIN? ISN'T CRISPIN AT YOUR HOUSE? DON'T DENY IT!

YOU ARE A GOOD
WIFE, BUT WHAT SONS
YOU HAVE! THEY MUST
HAVE TAKEN THE WAYS
OF THEIR FATHER!

SISA WAS BEWILDERED. SHE OPENED HER MOUTH TO SPEAK BUT SHE COULD NOT SAY A WORD.



UNABLE TO CONTAIN HIS GRIEF, SISA WEPT UNASHAMEDLY BEFORE THE LOUD-MOUTHED SERVANT.

GOD KNOWS THAT MY CHILDREN ARE INNOCENT. I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT THEY WOULD EVER STEAL!

THAT IS A MOTHER'S INTUITION! IT IS TRUE CRISPIN WAS LEFT HERE BUT HE RAN AWAY AFTER STEALING SOME THINGS!

THE CURATE SENT ME EAR

TO REPORT THE MATTER TO

CIVIL GUARDS. THEY MUST
GONE TO YOUR HOUSE NOW
GET YOUR CHILDREN.

OH MERCIFUL
GOD!

CONFUSED, SISA
HURRIED BACK TO HER
HOUSE. KNOWING WHAT
EVIL THE CIVIL GUARDS
COULD DO, SHE WAS
SEIZED WITH TERROR
AS SHE IMAGINED WHAT
WOULD HAPPENED TO
HER TWO SONS.

OH GOD,
PLEASE SAVE
MY SONS!
PLEASE SAVE

THEM FROM
HARM.

AS SISA CAME
NEAR HER HUT,
SHE WAS
HORRIFIED TO
SEE SOLDIERS
ALL AROUND.

CIVIL GUARDS!
HAVE THEY ARRESTED
MY CHILDREN? OH
MERCIFUL GOD...
FORBID THIS THING
FROM HAPPENING
TO US!

THE CHIEF OF
THE CIVIL GUARDS
CAUGHT SIGHT

OF HER. SHE HEARD HER NAME CALLED, SO SHE APPROACHED NERVOUSLY.

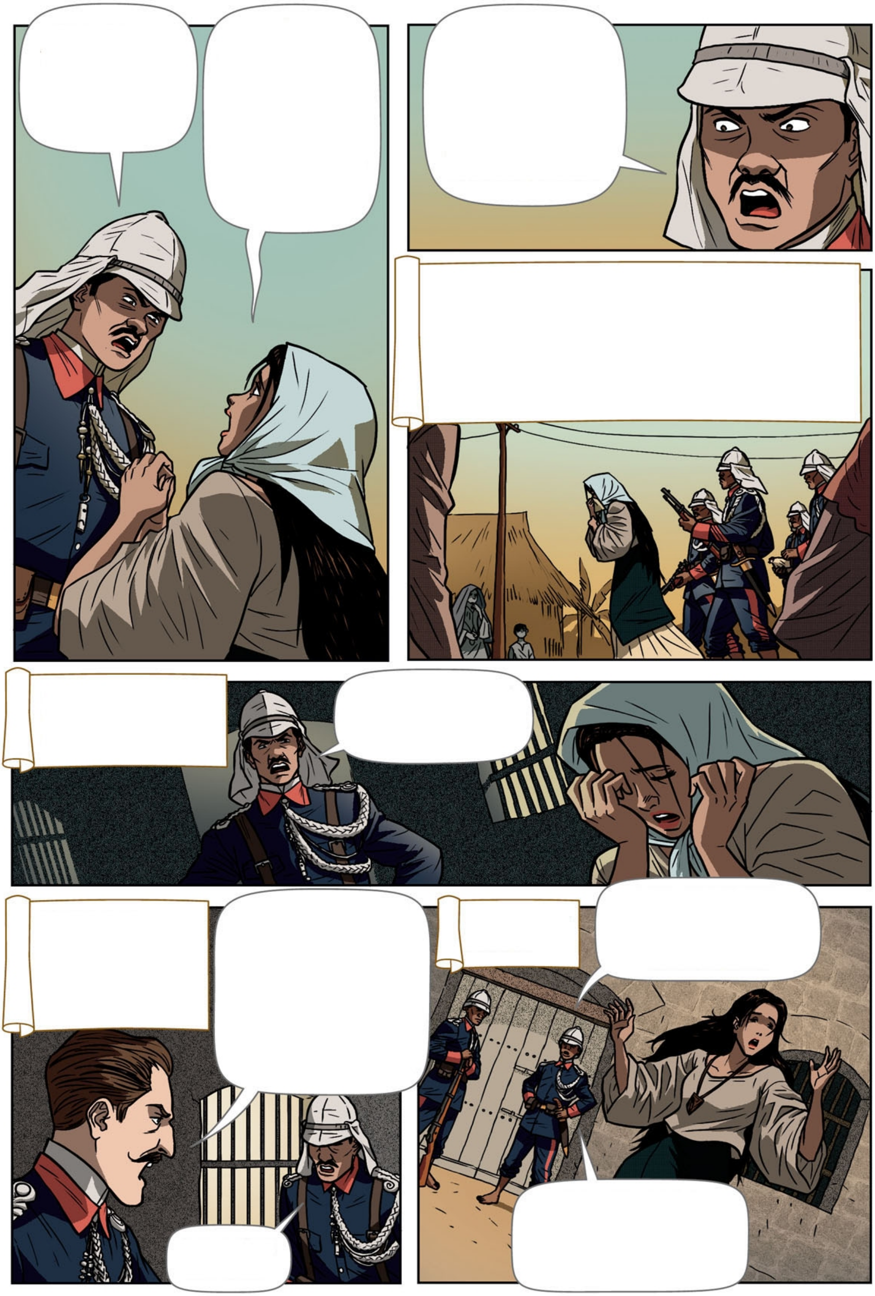
I AM SISA, ALL RIGHT, SEÑOR... BUT I, THE MOTHER OF THIEVES?

AREN'T YOU SISA, THE MOTHER OF THE LITTLE THIEVES?

DO NOT DENY ANYMORE OR IT WILL MAKE MATTERS WORSE FOR YOU. WE HAVE COME TO GET YOUR SONS. THE OLDER ONE ESCAPED.

NOW WHERE DID YOU KEEP
THE YOUNGER ONE?

SEÑOR, I HAVE
NOT SEEN CRISPIN
FOR MANY DAYS!



THEN GIVE US
THE MONEY THAT
THEY STOLE AND
WE WILL LEAVE YOU
IN PEACE!
SEÑOR...
MY CHILDREN AND
I ARE USED TO A
LIFE OF POVERTY.
I'M SURE THEY
WOULD NOT STEAL
EVEN IF THEY HAVE
TO STARVE TO
DEATH.
YOU'RE LYING!
SINCE YOU CHOOSE
TO BE OBSTINATE, WE
WILL KEEP YOU IN JAIL

UNTIL YOUR SONS
RETURN WHAT THEY
STOLE! GET GOING!

SISA BURST INTO TEARS. NO AM
ENTREATIES COULD MOVE THE S

FROM CARRYING OUT THEIR ORD
FELT AS THOUGH SHE WOULD M
SHAME AS THE SOLDIERS DRAG
INTO THE STREET.

AND AFTER SOME
DEGRADING
MOMENTS...

YOU WILL ROT IN JAIL
UNTIL YOU DECIDE TO
TELL THE TRUTH!

WHEN THE
ALFEREZ CAME

TO KNOW
ABOUT SISA'S
IMPRISONMENT...

THAT IS THE CURATE'S OWN MISCHIEF! RELEASE THE PRISONER AND NEVER BOTHER HER AGAIN! IF THE CURATE WISHES TO BRING BACK HIS LOST GOLD, LET HIM PRAY TO SAN ANTONIO!

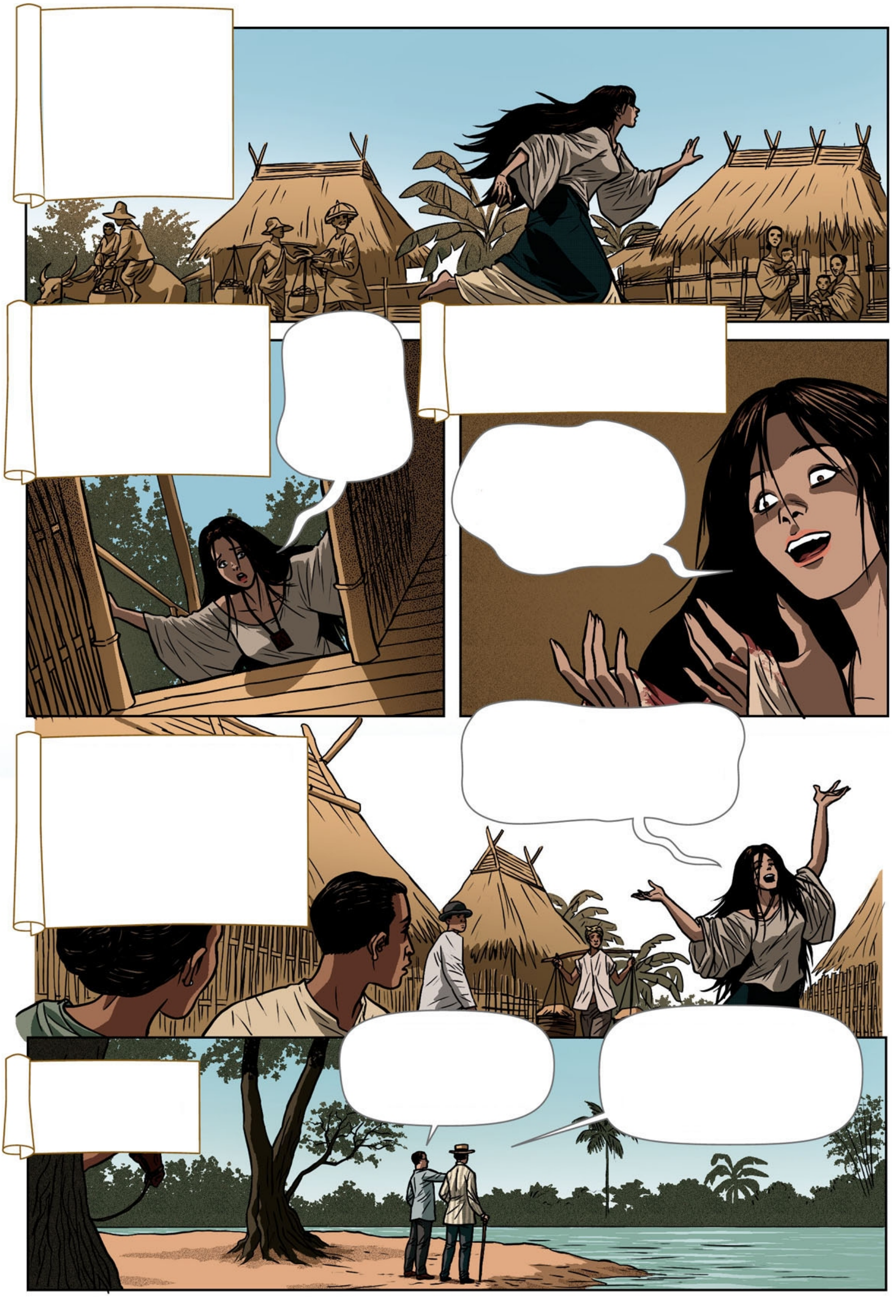
AND RIGHT
AWAY...

YOU, GET OUT OF THERE! THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOTHING TO FEED YOU! HA HA HA!

YES, SEÑOR

ALFEREZ...

POOR WOMAN, SHE MARRIED A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING... AND GAVE BIRTH TO A PAIR OF THIEVES!



OUT IN THE STREETS AGAIN, SISA HURRIED HOME, HER HEAD BARE AND HER RUMPLED HAIR DOWN. NOT KNOWING WHAT TO DO, SHE WENT FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER IN SEARCH OF HER SONS, THEN BACK TO HER HUT AGAIN.

BASILIO!
CRISPIN!
MY SONS...
WHERE ARE

YOU? CRISPIN!

BASILIO!

SHE LOOKED AROUND AND SAW SOMETHING HORRIFYING HANGING AT THE END OF A POST.

A PIECE OF BASILIO'S GARMENTS! AND WET WITH BLOOD! BLOOD! HE HE HE! WET WITH BLOOD!

HA HA HA!

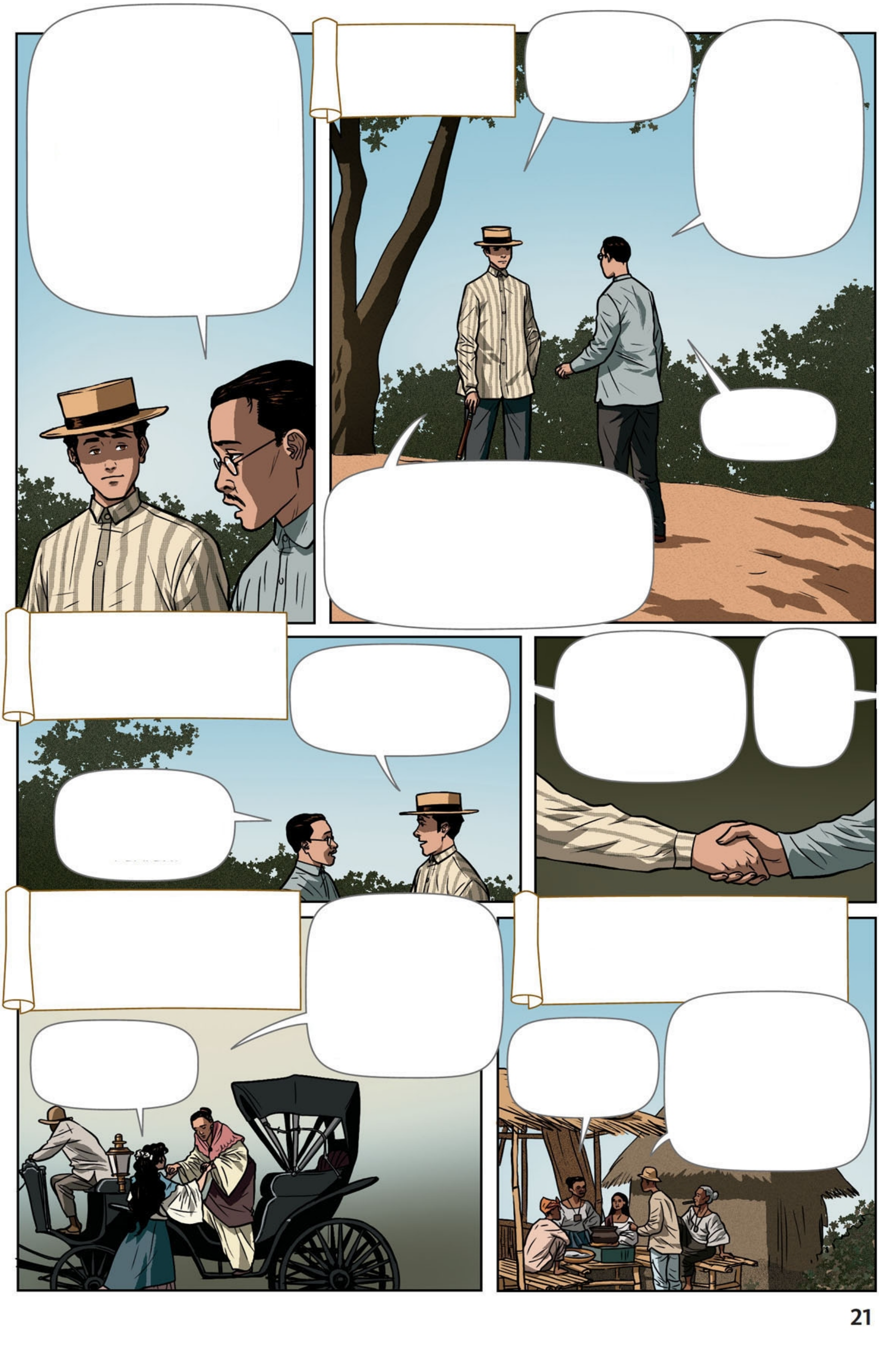
HA HA HA HA! SO MY CHILD H
BLOOD! HA HA HA! I AM TH
MOTHER OF MY CHILDREN W
ARE BOTH THIEVES! BLOOD

THE NEXT MORNING THE TOWNSPEOPLE WERE FRIGHTENED TO SEE

SISA SMILING, SINGING,
AND CONVERSING WITH
THE FLOWERS AND THE
BIRDS IN THE WOODS
AND FIELDS.
MEANWHILE,
IN THAT SAME
INSTANT...

IT WAS HERE
WHERE I SAW THE
GRAVEDIGGER DUMP
YOUR FATHER'S BODY.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR
THE INFORMATION. REST
ASSURED THAT I SHALL
CONSIDER THIS A LIFETIME
GRATITUDE.



YOU DON'T HAVE TO THANK ME FOR THIS. WHEN YOUR FATHER WAS ALIVE, HE DID ME A LOT OF FAVORS. I WAS ABLE TO REPAY HIM FOR HIS KINDNESS ONLY WHEN I HAD BROUGHT HIS CORPSE TO ITS RIGHTFUL GRAVE! WHERE IT NOT FOR YOUR FATHER'S GENEROSITY, MANY CHILDREN IN SAN DIEGO WOULD HAVE REMAINED ILLITERATES!

THE YOUNG MAN THOUGHT FOR A WHILE...

HOW ARE THE CHILDREN GOING ALONG IN THEIR

STUDIES?
THERE WERE
MORE THAN
TWO HUNDRED
ENROLLEES, BUT
BECAUSE OF A
HARD LIFE, ONLY
TWENTY-FIVE ARE
NOW ATTENDING
REGULARLY!

I HAVE FORGIVEN MY FATH
ENEMIES—MY OWN PEOPLE!
TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT OF
IGNORANCE AND STUPIDITY! I
IS LEFT FOR ME BUT TO CARR
FATHER'S UNDERTAKING

WHAT DO YOU
MEAN?

IBARRA SMILED AS HE NOTICED THE EXPECTANT FACE OF THE TOWN'S SCHOOLMASTER.

YES, I WILL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO HELP THOSE WHO WISH TO STUDY.

THANK YOU SO MUCH! YOU'RE AN ANGEL SENT FROM HEAVEN!

WELL, I WON'T TARRY ANY LONGER AS I STILL HAVE SEVERAL IMPORTANT APPOINTMENTS IN TOWN.

TILL WE
MEET
AGAIN,
SEÑOR.
ADIOS.

THREE DAYS ELAPSED, AND ON THE EVE OF THE TOWN'S FIESTA, VISITORS BEGAN TO ARRIVE IN SAN DIEGO.

DON'T WORRY
ABOUT ME, MARIA.
I HAVE BEEN BOARDING
AND UNBOARDING
CALESAS AND
CARRIAGES SINCE YOU
WERE AN INFANT!

CAREFUL, AUNT

ISABEL... LEST YOU FALL DOWN!

NEWS ABOUT THE ARRIVAL OF CAPITAN TIAGO'S DAUGHTER SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE IN SAN DIEGO.

I HEARD THAT SHE IS AS BEAUTIFUL AS EVER.

MAYBE SO...

IMAGINE, SHE HAD SPENT ALMOST ONE HALF OF HER LIFE INSIDE A CONVENT! SHE HAD BEEN BREATHING A SPECIAL KIND OF AIR!

AND WHEN THE NEWS ABOUT MARIA CLARA'S ARRIVAL REACHED THE EARS OF IBARRA...

SO SHE HAS ARRIVED... I'LL SEE HER RIGHT AWAY!

AS IBARRA WAS ABOUT TO REAC
OF HIS BELOVED MARIA CLARA, H
UPON FATHER SALVI. HE GREETEI
APOLOGETICALLY AND...

FATHER SALVI, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I DEEPLY REGRET THAT UNHAPPY INCIDENT...

YOUNG MAN, I HAVE A HEART THAT EASILY UNDERSTANDS. FORGET THAT INCIDENT! I HAVE

NO RANCOR IN MY HEART.
ANYONE IN YOUR PLACE WOULD
ACTED SIMILARLY UNDER THE S
CIRCUMSTANCES! I REPEAT, I C
NOT BLAME YOU FOR WHAT YO
AND I HAVE NO RANCOR IN MY

THANK YOU SO MUCH,
FATHER SALVI. YOU
HAVE INDEED A VERY
UNDERSTANDING HEART.
NOW I CAN RELAX AND
BREATHE FREELY!

AND SOME MOMENTS
LATER...

ASK ME MY LIFE AND I
WOULD GLADLY GIVE IT TO
YOU! ASK ME ANYTHING
AND I WOULD NOT SAY NO!

YOU ARE MY WHOLE LIFE,
MY EVERYTHING!

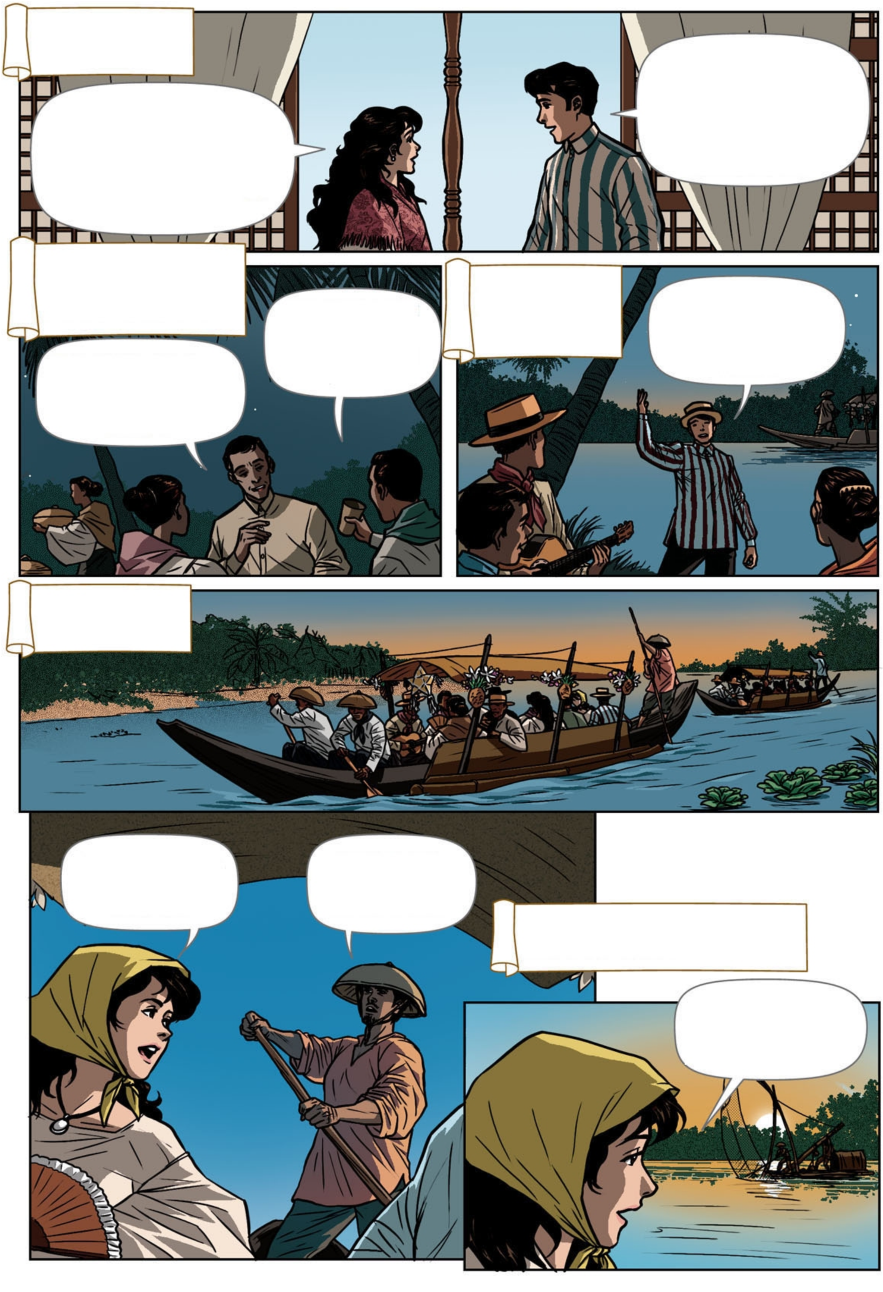
YOU MEAN, WE
WILL HOLD THE
FESTIVITIES BY THE
BROOK?

YES, IBARRA... I'M SURE
EVERYBODY WILL BE PLEASED
IF YOU APPROVE OF MY
PROPOSAL!

A FILIPINO WOMAN HAS NO
TONGUE IN AS FAR AS LOVE IS
CONCERNED... PARDON ME THEN
IF I CANNOT EXPRESS IN WORDS
WHAT MY HEART REALLY FEELS

YOU ARE TOO SECRETIVE.
HOWEVER, I COULD TELL
YOUR FEELINGS BY THE

TWINKLE OF YOUR EYES!
THEN LET IT BE THAT WAY...
JUST READ FROM MY
EYES WHATEVER WORDS
MY LIPS FAIL TO UTTER!



AND BEFORE
IBARRA LEFT...

NOW THAT YOU HAVE APPROVED MY SUGGESTION, I WILL INFORM MY FRIENDS ABOUT IT RIGHT AWAY! I'M SURE THEY WILL BE DELIGHTED!

I WILL DO THE SAME TO MY FRIENDS. I'M EQUALLY CERTAIN THE PICNIC BY THE BROOK WILL BE WONDERFUL FOR ALL OF US!

AND BEFORE
SUNRISE EARLY THE
NEXT MORNING...

HEY, TASIO... GO SLOW

WITH THAT SALABAT
OR NOTHING WOULD
BE LEFT!

SO WHAT? AFTER
ALL, IT WAS IBARRA
WHO SPENT FOR
THIS, NOT YOU!

SHORTLY
AFTER
BREAKFAST...

COME ON, FRIENDS...
LET'S GO FIND
SOMETHING FOR
LUNCH!

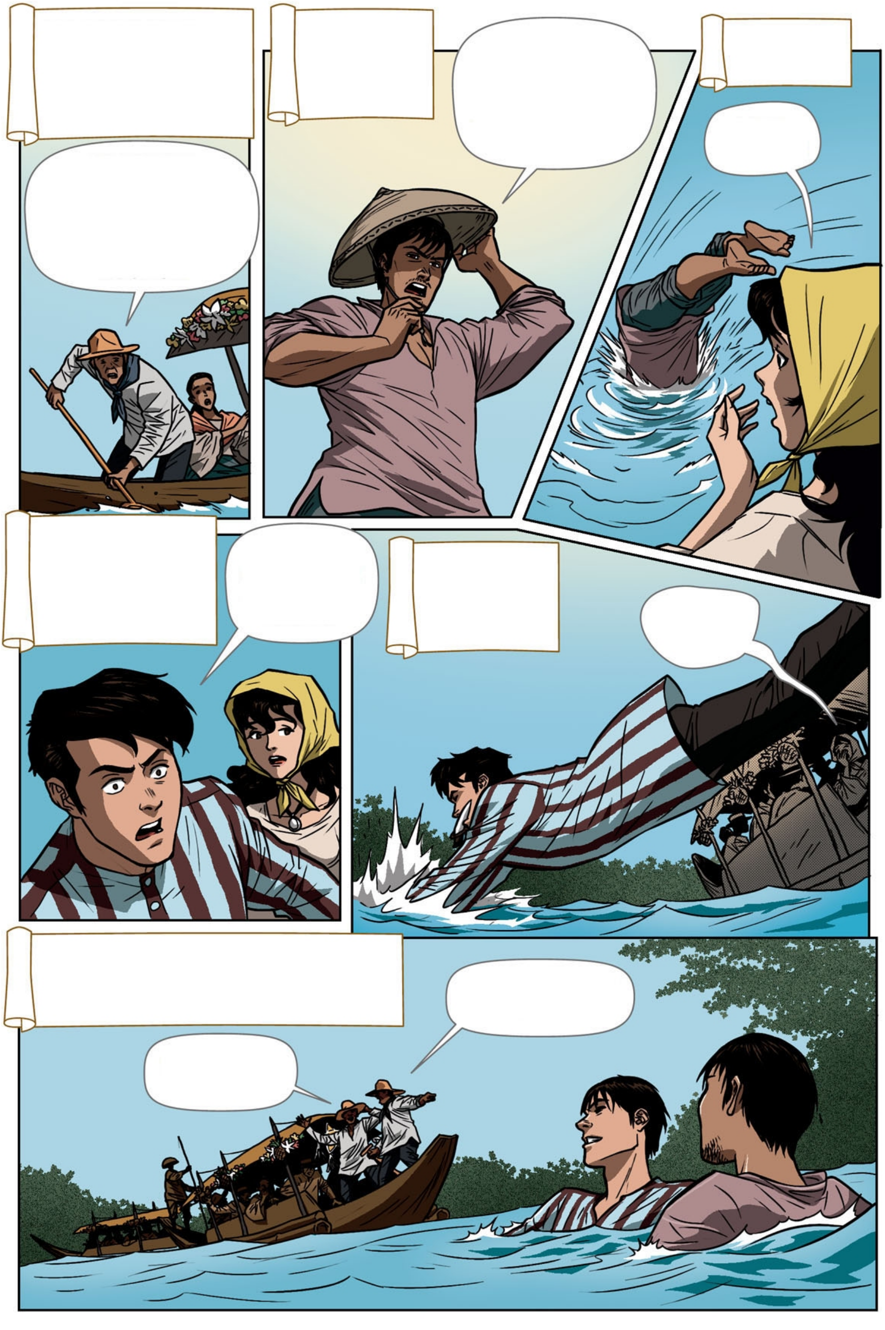
NOT LONG
AFTERWARDS...

HOW FAR AWAY ARE
MY FATHER'S FISH

CORRALS?
NOT VERY FAR,
SEÑORITA... SHALL
WE GO THERE?

AS THE TWO BOATS MOVED
FURTHER AWAY...

YES. THIS IS WHERE
WE WILL CATCH FISH
FOR LUNCH.



BUT WHEN THEY
REACHED THE
PLACE, THEY WERE
ALL ALARMED BY
THEIR DISCOVERY.

WHAT IS THIS
UNDERNEATH THE WATER?
IT'S SOMETHING HARD...
AND MOVING! WHY IT'S...
IT'S AN ALLIGATOR! AN
ALLIGATOR!

THE YOUNG
PILOT ELIAS
STOOD UP,
AND...

FOR AS LONG AS
THAT ALLIGATOR IS
ALIVE, WE WILL NEVER

PROFIT FROM THESE FISH TRAPS!

ALL OF A SUDDEN...

MARIA SANTISIMA!

EVERYONE HELD HIS BREATH AS THE YOUNG MAN PLUNGED INTO THE WATER.

HE HAS NOT SURFACED YET!

HE MUST BE IN DANGER!

IBARRA QUICKLY GRABBED A

KNIFE AND...

MY GOD...

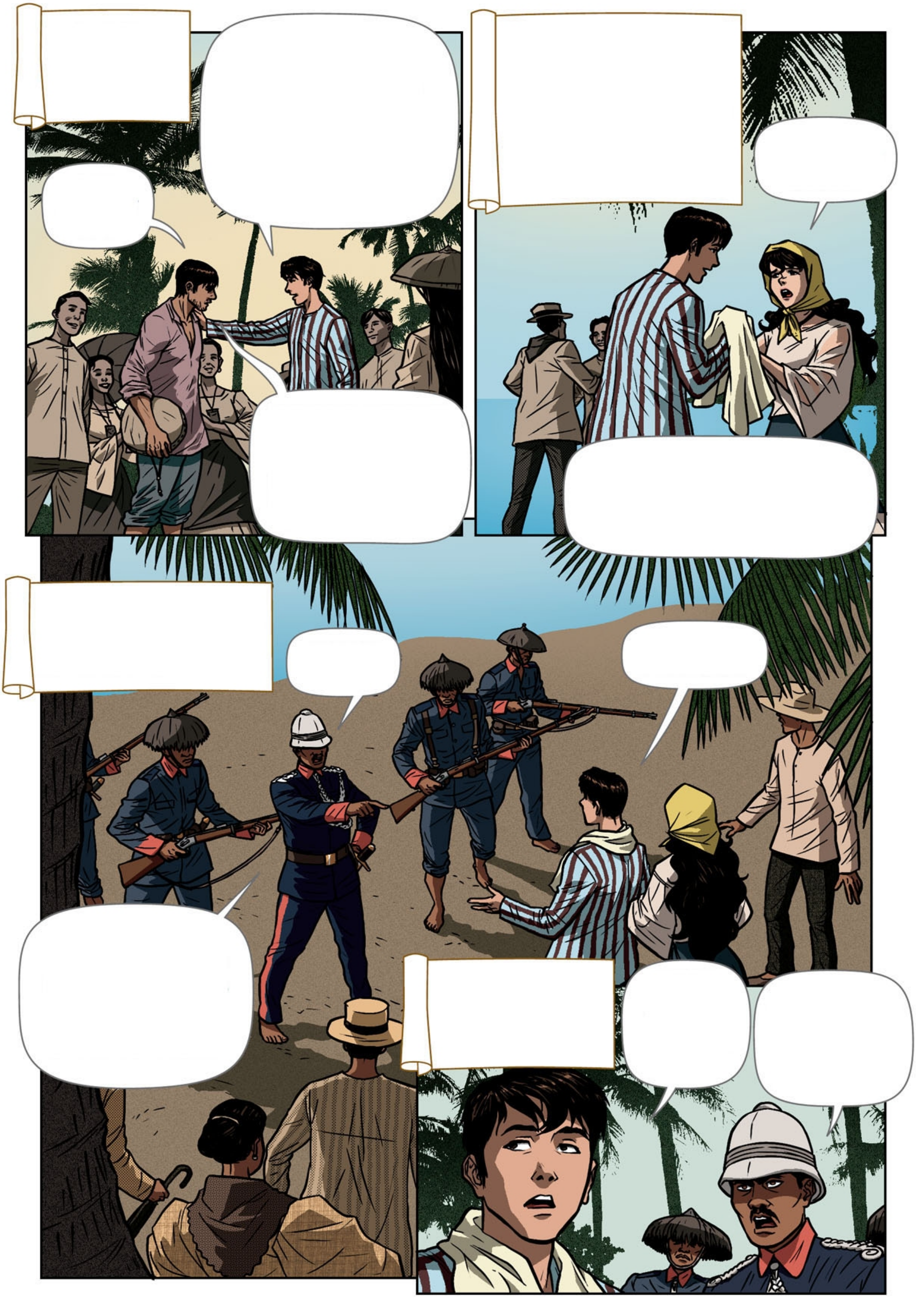
IBARRA!

EVERYBODY FEARED THE TWO HA
LOST THEIR LIVES, BUT AFTER SO
LONG TERRIFYING MOMENTS...

THEY'RE ALIVE...

ALIVE!

THAT'S RIGHT! THEY
ARE... OVER THERE!



MOMENTS AFTER THE NEAR-TRAGIC INCIDENT...

YOU ACTED ON IMPULSE ... RASHNESS WOULD NOT DO ANYONE ANY GOOD. LEARN TO CONTROL YOURSELF AND YOU WILL BE SAVED FROM FURTHER UNNECESSARY HARM!

YOU SAVED MY LIFE!

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR ADVICE, SEÑOR. IF I WOULD HAVE THE

OPPORTUNITY, I WOULD
DO FOR YOU WHAT YOU
DID FOR ME TODAY!

IN A MATTER OF
SECONDS, ELIAS LOST
HIMSELF AMONG THE
GROUP OF PICNICKERS.

MEANWHILE, MARIA
CLARA, APPROACHED
IBARRA, AND...

THANK GOD
YOU WERE NOT
HARMED!

I ONLY DID WHAT OUGH
DONE UNDER THE CIRCUM
I COULD NOT STAND WA
SOMEONE'S IN DAN

ALL OF A SUDDEN, A GROUP OF ARMED CIVIL GUARDS APPEARED ON THE SCENE...

NOBODY MOVE!

WE DEMAND THAT YOU SURRENDER TO US THE CRIMINAL NAMED ELIAS, THE PILOT! THIS MAN ELIAS IS ACCUSED OF ASSAULTING A PRIEST!

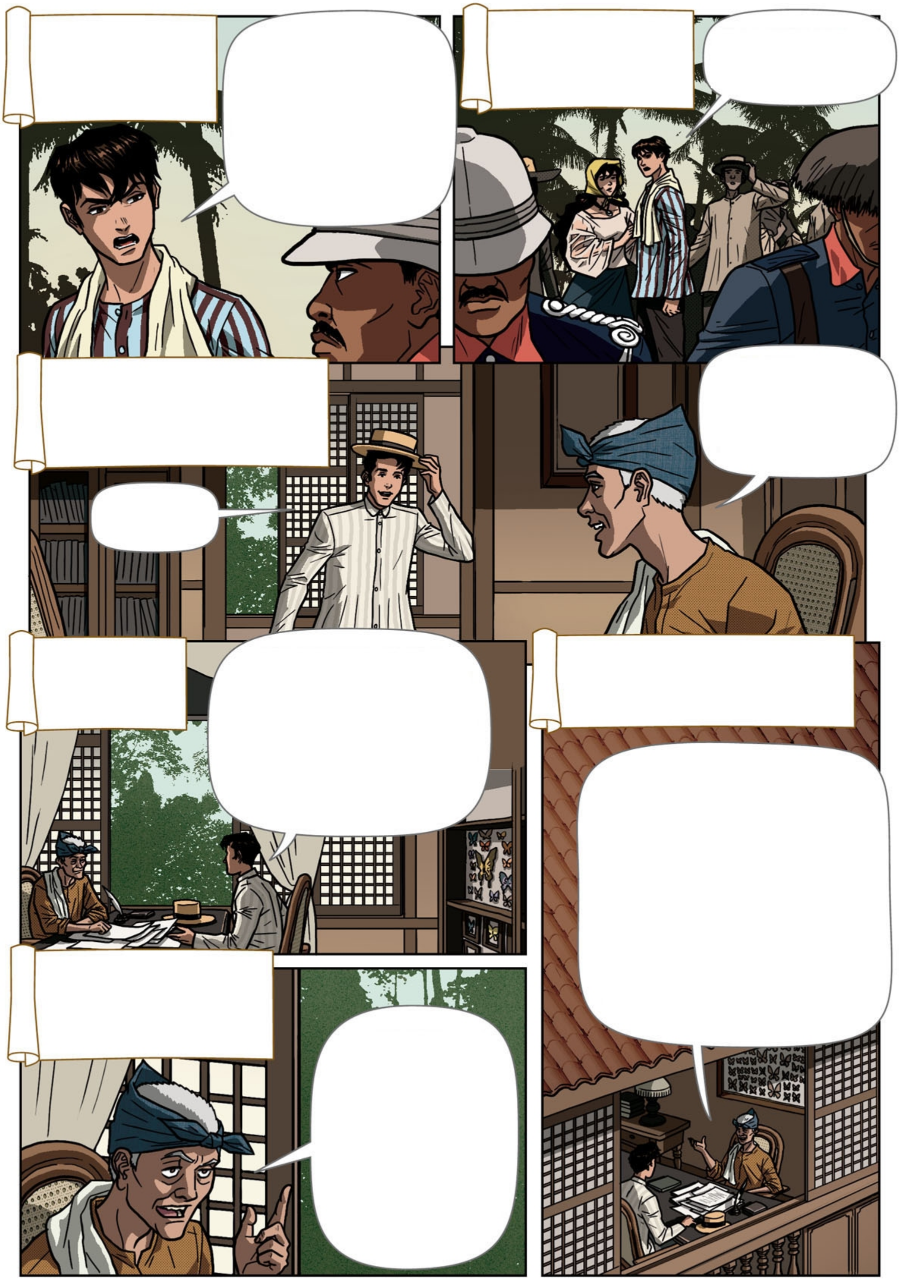
IBARRA LOOKED AROUND, AND WHEN HE FAILED TO SEE ELIAS...

HE'S NO LONGER

HERE... HE MUST HAVE RUN AWAY!

YOU ALLOW PERSONS OF BAD REFUTE IN YOUR CELEBRATIONS, SEÑOR IBARRA!

WHY? WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?



IBARRA WAS IRKED BY THE REMARK OF THE SERGEANT, AND...

IT IS NOT MY DUTY TO REPORT TO YOU WHAT I SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT DO! I WELCOME ALL IN MY FEASTS. YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN WELCOME, TOO, IF YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO COME!

THE SERGEANT AND HIS MEN, VISIBLY EMBARRASSED, WENT AWAY.

I AM A PRUDENT MAN... BUT NOT IN THE FACE

OF SUCH ABUSES!

THE NEXT MORNING IBARRA WENT TO SEEK THE ADVICE OF OLD TASIO, THE TOWN'S PHILOSOPHER.

GOOD DAY, OLD TASIO!

WHY, IT'S SEÑOR IBARRA! ...COME IN, PLEASE! I AM DEEPLY HONORED TO HAVE YOU AS MY GUEST!

AFTER SOME PRELIMINARY TALKS...

WHEN MY FATHER WAS ALIVE, HE USUALLY CONSULTE
YOU ON MATTERS OF GREAT

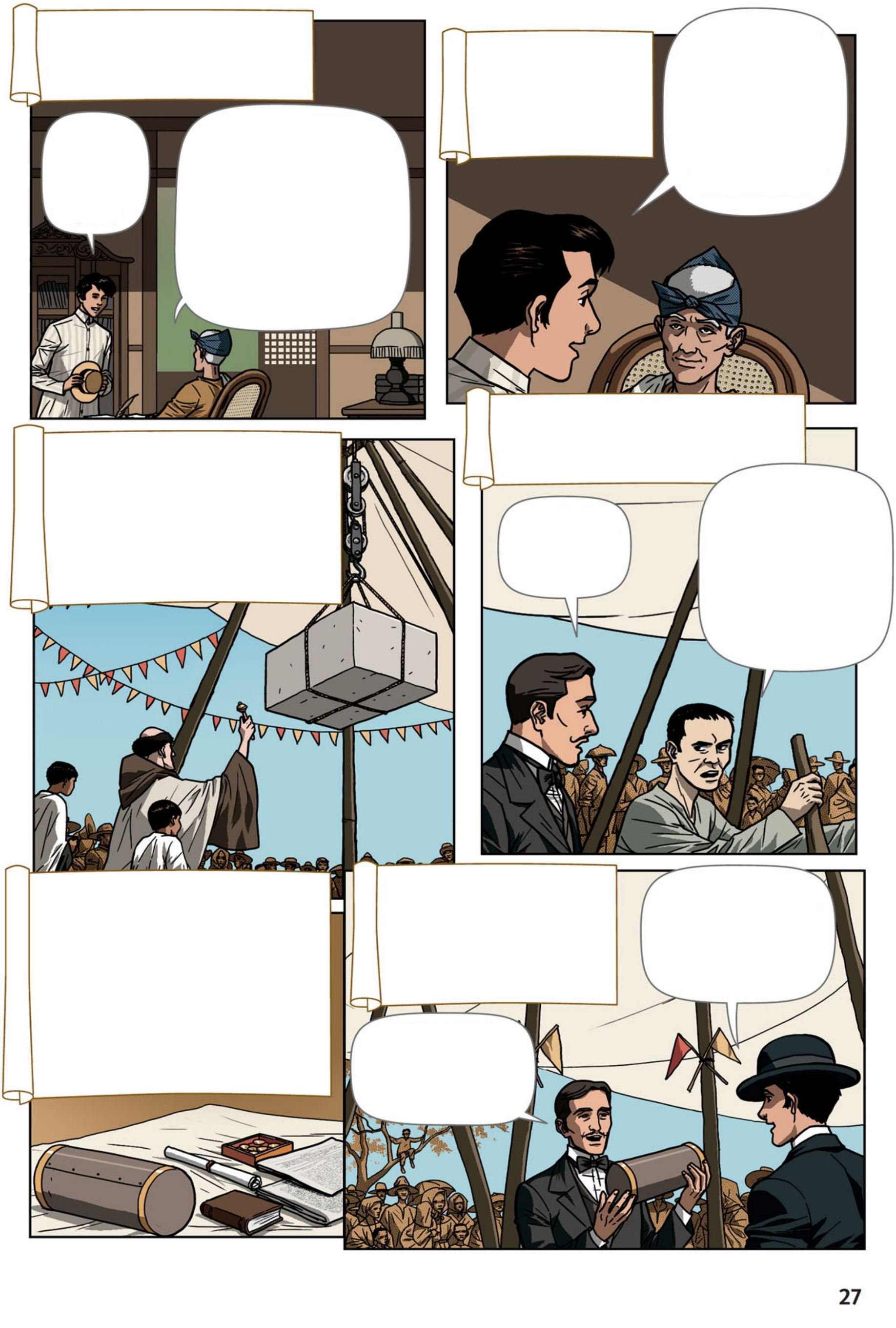
IMPORTANCE... I HAVE THE SAM PURPOSE: TO CONSULT YOU ABOUT MY PLAN TO CONSTRUC A SCHOOLHOUSE IN SAN DIEGO!

IBARRA NOTICED THE DUBIOUS EXPRESSION ON THE FACE OF OLD TASIO.

A SCHOOLHOUSE FOR OUR IGNORANT PEOPLE? A BUILDING WHICH I HAD ALSO DREAMED OF BEFORE I WAS REGARDED AS A LUNATIC! BUT IN OUR COUNTRY TODAY, TO KNOW SOMETHING IS

TO BE HANGED!
THE PHILOSOPHER FELT
THAT IBARRA DID NOT FULLY
UNDERSTAND HIM, AND SO...

IF YOU HAVE ANY UNDERTAK
IN MIND, SEÑOR IBARRA, YO
SHOULD CONSULT THE CURA
AND HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFIC
YOU WILL SUCCEED IF THEY G
YOU THEIR SUPPORT BECAUSE
THEY WHO CONTROL OUR PEO
BESIDES, YOUR PLAN NEEDS M
THAN MONEY AND EARNEST D
TO SUCCEED. YOU NEED SE
ABNEGATION, PERSISTENCE,
STRONG FAITH.



IBARRA PONDERED FOR A WHILE ON THE WORDS OF THE OLD SAGE.

IS THIS
ALL THAT
YOU CAN
SUGGEST
TO ME?

YOU MAY FAIL,
BUT YOU WOULD HAVE
STARTED SOMETHING
THAT WILL BENEFIT YOUR
SUCCESSORS WHO WILL BE
FAVORED LATER BY BETTER
CONDITIONS. YOU WOULD
HAVE TAKEN THE FIRST STEP
AND SHOWN OTHERS
HOW TO BEGIN!

IBARRA REALIZED THAT THERE WAS TRUTH IN WHAT HE HEARD. HE SMILED, AND...

BEFORE I LEAVE, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I DO BELIEVE IN YOU. I HOPE YOUR ADVICE WOULD SERVE TO GUIDE ME IN ALL MY FUTURE UNDERTAKING!

IBARRA FOLLOWED THE ADVICE OF OLD TASIO. FORTUNATELY, HE SUCCEEDED IN HIS PROJECT. AND THEN THE DAY CAME FOR THE

LAYING OF THE BUILDING'S CORNERSTONE.

THE ALCALDE APPROACHED THE YELLOW-FACED MAN IN CHARGE OF THE DERRICK, AND...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW TO DO IT...

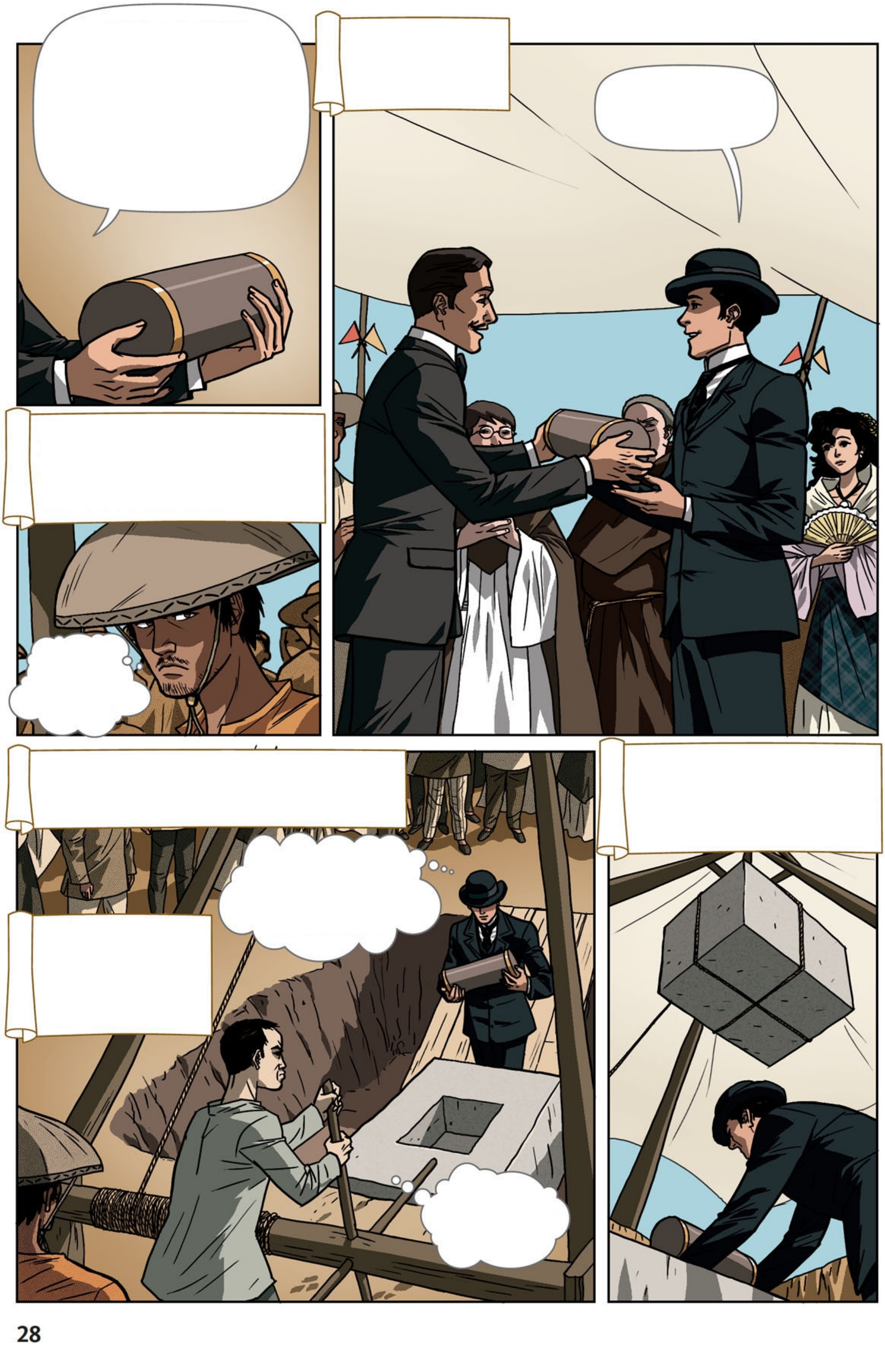
LOOK... WITH MINIMUM FORCE, I CAN RAISE AND LOWER THE GREAT STONE. ONE MAN IN THE PIT IS ENOUGH TO FIT THE TWO STONES TOGETHER!

NEARBY, THERE WAS A TABLE

CONTAINING NEWSPAPERS, MANUSCRIPTS, MEDALS, AND OTHER HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS. THESE WOULD BE ENCLOSED IN A LEADEN CYLINDER AND PLACED IN THE HOLES OF THE OPPOSITE STONES, TO BE PRESERVED FOR POSTERITY. AFTER THE HISTORICAL RECORDS HAD BEEN PLACED INSIDE THE LEADEN CYLINDER, THE ALCALDE APPROACHED IBARRA, AND...

SEÑOR IBARRA, NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO PLACE THIS

CYLINDER IN THE PIT! I CONSIDER IT A GREAT HONOR... BUT I DO BELIEVE THAT THE HONOR GOES TO THE ESCRIBANO!



AMONG ALL THOSE PRESENT, YOU HAVE AS MUCH RIGHT TO DO THE HONOR, SEÑOR IBARRA. THIS PROJECT WOULD NOT HAVE MATERIALIZED HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR YOUR INDUSTRY AND DETERMINATION!

MEANTIME, ELIAS HAD BEEN WATCHING THE CEREMONIES FROM A NEARBY PLACE, HIDDEN FROM VIEW.

I HOPE HE REFUSES.

HOW I WISH HE WOULD!

BUT CONTRARY TO ELIAS'S

HOPE...

LET ME DO IT THEN,
SEÑOR ALCALDE.

IBARRA TOOK THE LEADEN CYLIN

CONTAINING HIS COUNTRY'S HISTO
AND WALKED TOWARD THE PIT.

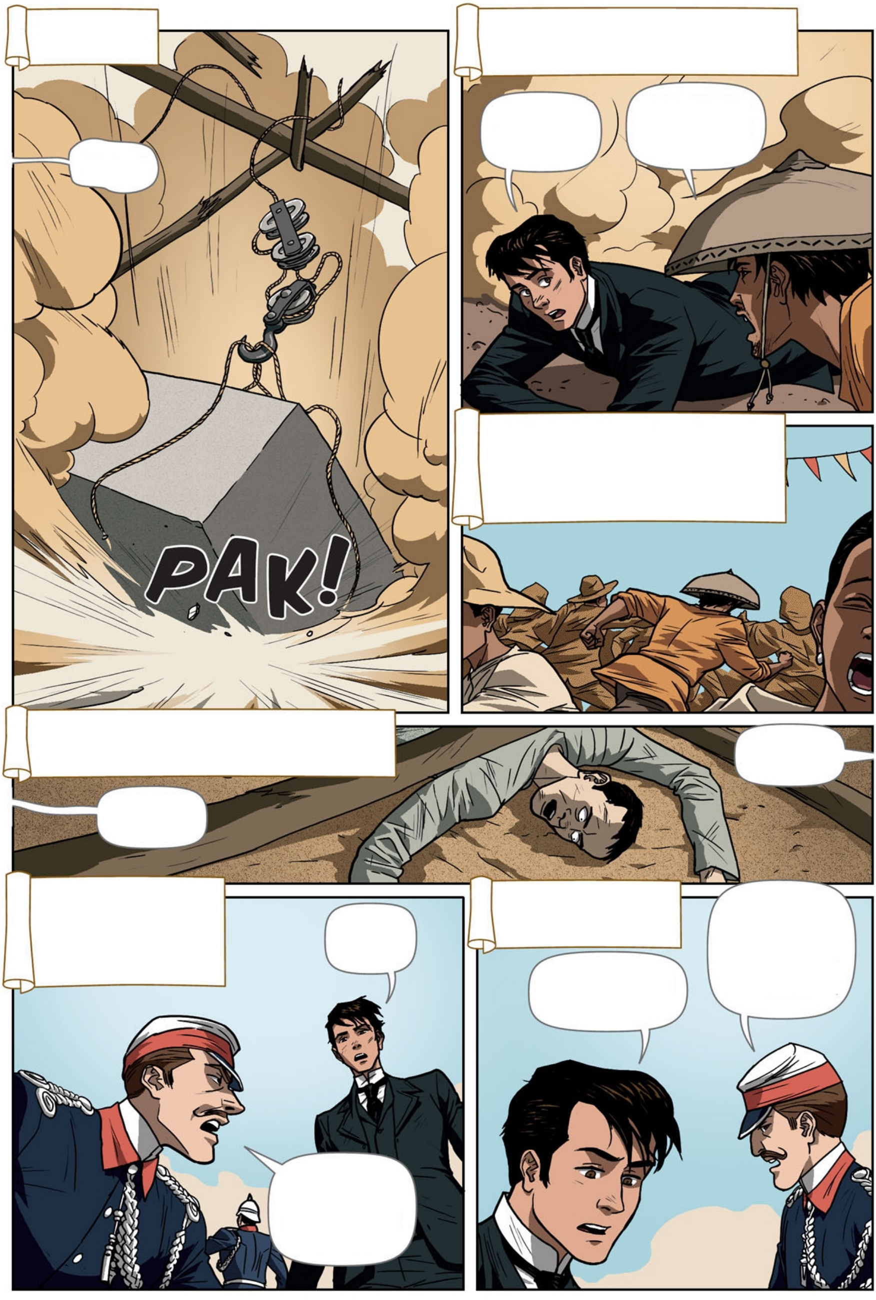
THIS IS JUST THE
BEGINNING OF MY
DREAMS FOR THE YOUTH
OF THE LAND!

ON THE OTHER
HAND, THE
YELLOW-FACED
MAN HAD OTHER
DREAMS.

JUST ONE
MORE STEP AND

YOU'RE DEAD!

IBARRA WAS BEGINNING TO INSERT THE CYLINDER INTO THE HOLE OF THE CORNERSTONE WHEN...


PAK!

SUDDENLY...

OOOPS!

TO HIS SURPRISE, IBARRA SAW ELIAS ON TOP OF HIM.

ELIAS!

WHAT DOES
THIS MEAN?

I WILL EXPLAIN
TO YOU SOME
OTHER DAY!

IN NO TIME ELIAS LOST HIMSELF AMONG THE CROWD WHO WERE TOO PANICKED TO DO ANYTHING.

AND WHEN AT LAST THE CONFUS
HAD SETTLED DOWN...

HE'S DEAD!

MY GOD!

IBARRA WALKED
OVER TO WHERE
THE CROWD
GATHERED, AND...

WHO IS
HE?

HE IS THE
MAN WHO
ATTEMPTED TO
KILL YOU!

INSTEAD OF
GETTING ANGRY...

I WILL TAKE CARE
OF HIS BURIAL.

THIS IS
SOMETHING
MYSTERIOUS!
IT SHOULD BE

INVESTIGATED!

IBARRA SHOOK
HIS HEAD AND...

WHAT FOR? WE
MAY CONDUCT AN
INVESTIGATION BUT
THERE IS NOTHING
MORE WE CAN DO
ABOUT IT! IT'S ALL
OVER. INSTEAD OF
DESTROYING ME,
HE DESTROYED
HIMSELF!

THE GENTLEMANLY ACT OF
IBARRA ELICITED PRAISES
FROM THE CROWD...

I WILL HAVE GROWN
GRAY HAIR BUT I
DON'T THINK I WILL

EVER SEE A MAN LIKE
HIM AGAIN!
HE IS TRULY A
WONDERFUL MAN...
THAT SEÑOR IBARRA!

THE FOLLOWING
NIGHT...

SEÑORITO,
SOMEONE WISHES
TO SEE YOU. HE'S
WAITING OUTSIDE.

WHO IS HE?

HE REFUSES
TO GIVE HIS NAME...
BUT HE SAID THAT
THE TWO OF YOU
KNOW EACH
OTHER!

HMM! THEN
LET HIM IN.

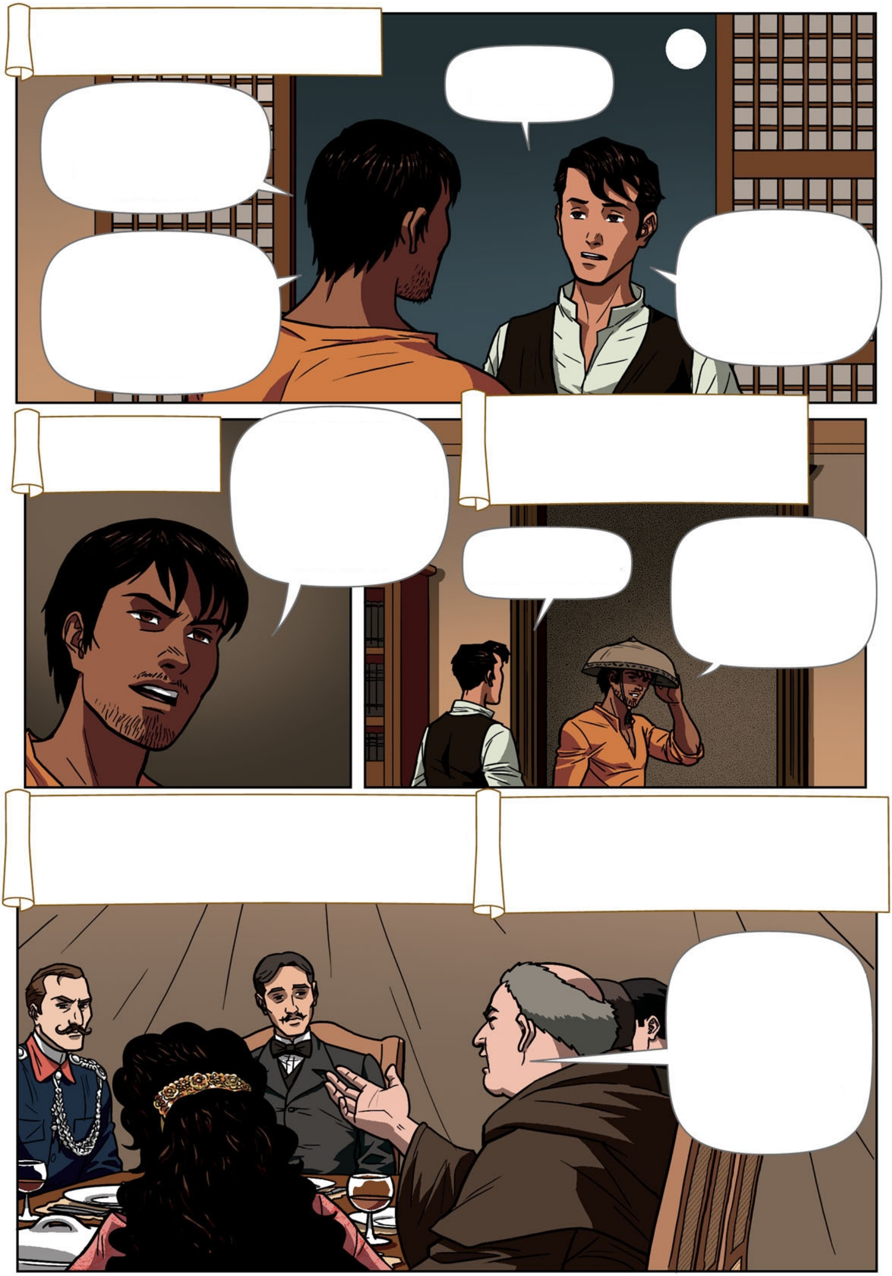
THE SERVANT DID AS HE WAS TOLD, AND AFTER A FEW MOMENTS...

ELIAS!
WELCOME, MY
FRIEND! I NEVER
THOUGHT IT
WAS YOU!

AFTER SOME PRELIMINARY TALKS...

YOU SAVED
MY LIFE! WERE
IT NOT FOR
YOU...

WHEN I TRIED TO
SAVE YOU, IT WAS
TO PAY MY DEBT!



AND AFTER ELIAS HAD REFLECTE
ON HIS THOUGHTS...

IT WOULD BE FOR YOUR SECURITY IF NONE OF YOUR ENEMIES KNEW THAT YOU ARE PREPARED!

ALL OF US HAVE, SEÑOR IBARRA. THE MAN WHO ATTEMPTED TO KILL YOU WAS ONE OF THEM! I'M NOT SURE OF THE OTHERS...

ENEMIES? DO I HAVE ENEMIES?

I REGRET THAT THE MAN IS DEAD. WERE HE ALIVE, HE

COULD GIVE ME SOME CLUE AS TO WHO MY ENEMIES ARE!

ELIAS SMILED IN DISAGREEMENT.

ALIVE, HE WOULD HAVE ESCAPED ERRONEOUS HUMAN JUSTICE... BUT PERHAPS IT WAS THE WILL OF GOD THAT HE WAS KILLED!

AND AFTER WARNING IBARRA ANEW ABOUT THE LATTER'S SECRET ENEMIES, ELIAS BADE HIM GOODBYE.

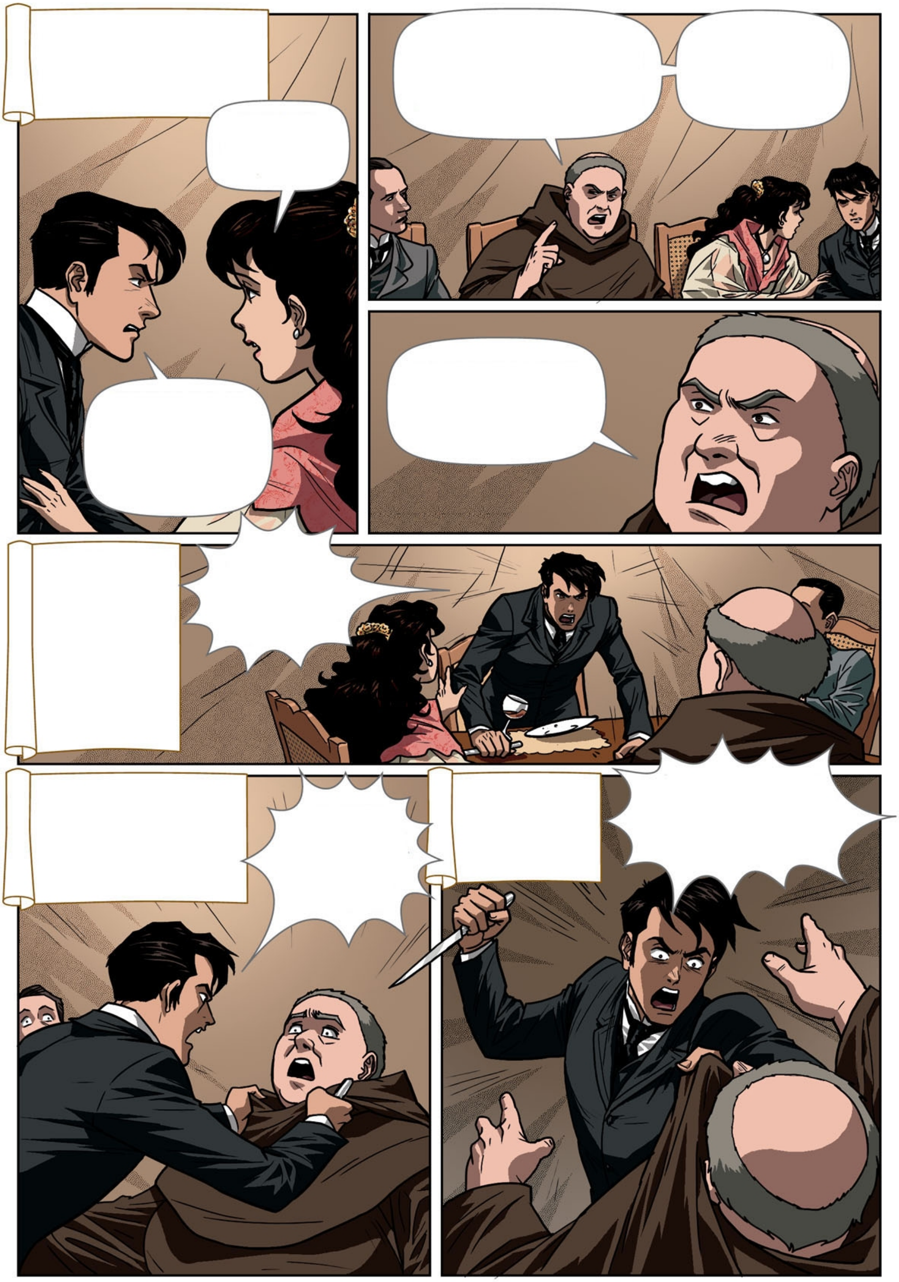
SHALL I SEE YOU AGAIN, MY FRIEND?

YES, ANYTIME YOU WISH AND WHENEVER I CAN DO SOMETHING FOR YOU. I STILL OWE YOU SOMETHING!

A NUMBER OF DAYS ELAPSED. AF
SCHOOL BUILDING HAD BEEN CO
AN INAUGURAL PARTY WAS HELD.
ATTENDED BY MEN OF HIGH LEVE
THE ALCALDE HAD JUST FINISHE
HEAPING PRAISES ON IBARRA W
PADRE DAMASO SNEERED, AND W
A CONTEMPTUOUS VOICE...

TOO MUCH HAD BEEN SPENT FOR THIS BUILDING! THAT IS THE TROUBLE WITH THE INDIOS! IMBUED WITH

A LITTLE LEARNING, THEY BEGIN TO BE PRETENTIOUS!



MARIA CLARA NOTICED
THAT IBARRA'S FACE
WAS BEGINNING TO
GROW RED, AND...

DON'T PAY
ATTENTION TO
HIM, IBARRA.

MARIA CLARA, IF
YOU ONLY KNEW
HOW HARD I'VE
BEEN TRYING TO
CONTROL MYSELF...

ALL THE VAGRANTS HAVE
BEEN GOING TO EUROPE AND
WHEN THEY RETURN, THEY
PRETEND TO BE "GENIUSES!"

GOD PUNISHES
SUCH VAGRANTS

EVEN BEFORE THEY DIE...

THE FATHER OF SUCH PETTY PERSONALITIES LANGUISH AND DIE IN JAIL LIKE A...

IBARRA, PALE WITH WRATH, DID NOT ALLOW PADRE DAMASO TO FINISH. HE LEAPT TO HIS FEET, AND...

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO DESECRATE THE

MEMORY OF MY
FATHER!

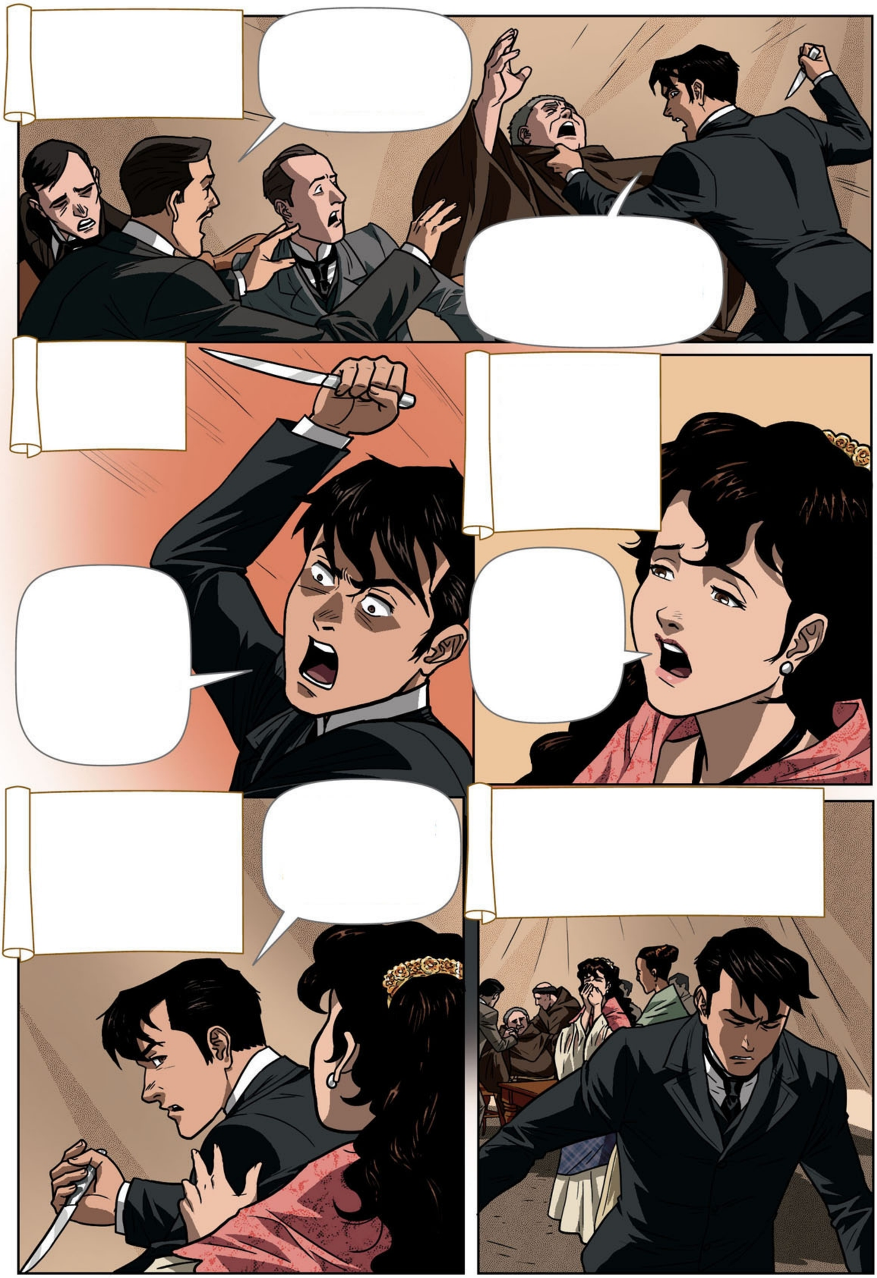
AND WHEN HE
COULD NO LONGER
HOLD HIS TERRIBLE
ANGER, HE LUNGED
AT PADRE DAMASO...

SAY YOUR
PRAYERS! YOUR
LIFE NOW LIES AT
THE MERCY OF
MY HANDS!

THE YOUNG
MAN SEIZED
A SHARP
KNIFE, AND...

NOW WE WILL KNOW
WHETHER IT'S BLOOD OR

MIRE THAT IS RUNNING
THROUGH YOUR VEINS!



IT WAS ONLY THEN
THAT THE ALCALDE
FOUND HIS VOICE,
AND...

SEÑOR IBARRA!
SEÑOR IBARRA!
PLEASE DON'T COMMIT
A MORTAL SIN!
DON'T DARE TO APPROA
WHAT DO YOU DREAD? T
I SHALL SMEAR MY FING
WITH HIS POLLUTED GO

IBARRA
SLOWLY
RAISED THE
KNIFE, AND...

I HAVE TRIED
TO BE SILENT BUT

YOU GOADED ME INTO THIS! VERY WELL, YOUR DAY OF JUDGMENT HAS COME!

IBARRA LOOKED AT MARIA. HE LOWERED HIS ARM SLOWLY, AND THE BODY OF THE FRANCISCAN FELL WITH A THUD.

THIS IS REALLY A SMALL WORLD FOR THE TWO OF US... BUT FOR YOUR SAKE, MARIA CLARA...

IBARRA WAS ABOUT TO

PLUNGE THE KNIFE INTO THE HEART OF THE HELPLESS PRIEST, WHEN...

IBARRA! PLEASE... PLEASE DON'T DO IT! LISTEN TO ME, IF ONLY FOR MY SAKE!

THE YOUNG MAN DID NOT FINISH HIS SENTENCE. HE QUICKLY TURNED AROUND AND LOST HIMSELF IN THE MIDST OF THE SURGING CROWD.

THE NEXT DAY, AT CAPITAN TIAGO'S HOUSE...

MARIA CLARA!

HIJA, WHY ARE YOU CRYING?

STOP CRYING, HIJA. PADRE DAMASO WILL EVENTUALLY FORGIVE HIM AND HE WILL BE ABSOLVED FROM EXCOMMUNICATION!

BUT WHY? WHAT IS HIS REASON?

AUNT ISABEL...

IBARRA HAS BEEN EXCOMMUNICATED!

IT'S NOT THAT, AUNT ISABEL, BUT THE

FACT THAT THE POPE PROHIBITS ME FROM SEEING OR TALKING WITH IBARRA!

I DON'T KNOW, AUNT ISABEL... BUT I'M SURE PADRE DAMASO HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE POPE'S ORDER!

JUST THEN CAPITAN TIAGO ARRIVED.

WHAT'S WORRYING YOU, TIAGO? TELL US WHAT TOOK PLACE IN THE CONVENT!

JUST AS I FEARED, ISABEL. IT'S A BIG PROBLEM!

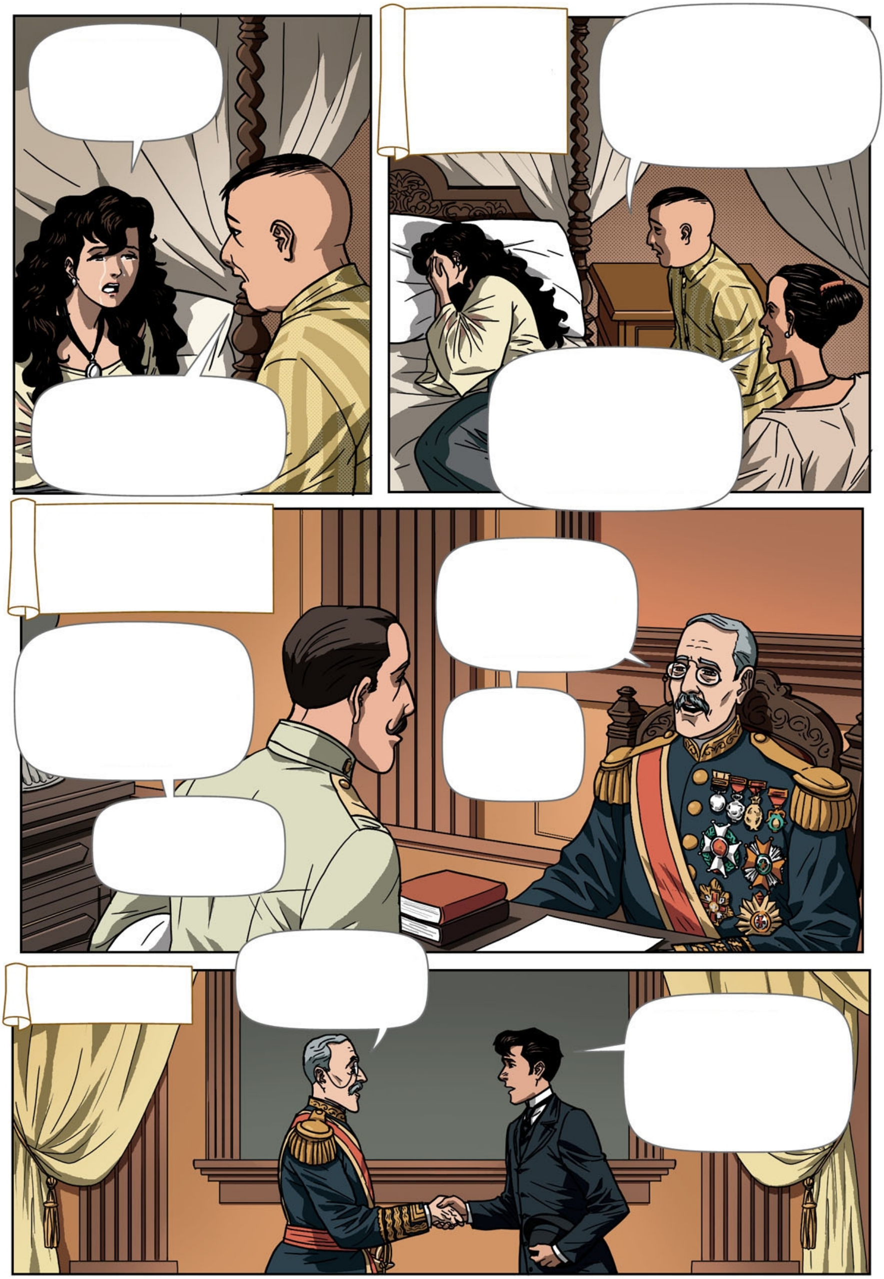
PADRE DAMASO COMMANDED ME TO BREAK THE BOND BETWEEN MARIA AND IBARRA, OR HE WILL DAMN MY LIFE AND MY SOUL!

AND YOU AGREED TO THAT?

DROWNED WITH SORROW, THE GIRL CRIED AGAIN.

STOP CRYING, MARIA. I MYSELF AM OPPOSED TO
BECAUSE I OWE IBARRA A LO
OF MONEY... FIFTY THOUSAN
PESOS! BUT I CANNOT GO

AGAINST THE WILL OF PADR
DAMASO!



WHY, FATHER?
WHY IS IT THAT YOU
CANNOT DISOBEY
PADRE DAMASO?

BECAUSE HE THREATENS
ME WITH EXCOMMUNICATION...
AND MY LIFE AND SOUL MAY
BE DAMNED FOREVER!

THE GIRL DID
NOT INQUIRE
ANY FURTHER.
SHE CRIED
HER HEART
OUT.

DON'T CRY ANYMORE.
YOU WILL HAVE OTHER SUITORS.
PADRE DAMASO ASSURED ME
THAT A RELATIVE OF HIS HAS

JUST ARRIVED FROM SPAIN. YOU CAN MARRY HIM!

YOU ARE A FOOL, SANTIAGO! DO YOU THINK THAT YOUR DAUGHTER CAN CHANGE SWEETHEARTS JUST AS OFTEN AS SHE CHANGES HER CLOTHES?

ONE DAY, AT THE OFFICE OF THE NEWLY ARRIVED CAPITAN-GENERAL...

YOUR EXCELLENCY, WITH YOUR PERMISSION, SEÑOR JUAN CRISOSTOMO IBARRA WISHES TO TALK WITH YOU. HE IS OUTSIDE, WAITING!

YES, SIR... AND
SENTENCED WITH
EXCOMMUNICATION!

SEÑOR IBARRA?
THE YOUNG MAN
WITH WHOM PADRE
DAMASO HAD AN
ALTERCATION?

LET HIM IN.
I WOULD LIKE
TO TALK TO
HIM!

ONCE INSIDE...

IT IS A PLEASURE TO
KNOW YOU, SEÑOR
IBARRA.

YOU SURPRISED ME

WITH YOUR KINDNESS,
YOUR EXCELLENCY. IN
THIS COUNTRY, I AM NOT
REGARDED AS A GOOD
CITIZEN!

REGARDING
YOUR ALTERCATION WITH
PADRE DAMASO, I WANT
TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE
PADRES WON'T BE ABLE
TO HARM YOU AS LONG
AS I GOVERN THESE
ISLANDS!

THANK YOU VERY
MUCH, GENERAL.

I SHALL ALSO TALK TO T
ARCHBISHOP CONCERNING
EXCOMMUNICATION! I, TOO,
MY OWN FATHER AND WOUL
DONE THE SAME IF PROVOK
YOU HAD BEEN!

NOW I REALIZE
WHY PEOPLE SPEAK

WELL OF YOUR EXCELLENCY!

THE TRUTH IS THAT I HAVE NO OTHER WISH BUT TO SEE MY COUNTRY HAPPY! I WISH TO SEE SPAIN AND MY COUNTRY UNITED AND FIRED BY THE SAME ASPIRATIONS AND COMMON INTERESTS!

YOU COMPLIMENTED ME FOR MY KINDNESS AND UNDERSTANDING. LET ME SAY THAT YOU ARE AN INTELLIGENT YOUNG MAN!

MEN OF YOUR

EDUCATION AND
MANNER OF
THINKING SHOULD
STAY IN EUROPE.
I MAY LEAVE IN A
MONTH'S TIME.
WOULD YOU COME
WITH ME?
I SHALL NEVER

FORGET YOUR
EXCELLENCY'S INTEREST
IN, AND KINDNESS TO ME.
BUT THIS PLACE WHERE
MY FATHER LIVED IS THE
PLACE WHERE I SHOULD
REMAIN!
NOT WHERE THEY LIVED...

WHERE THEY DIED IS THE RIGHT EXPRESSION, SEÑOR IBARRA. I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FATHER!

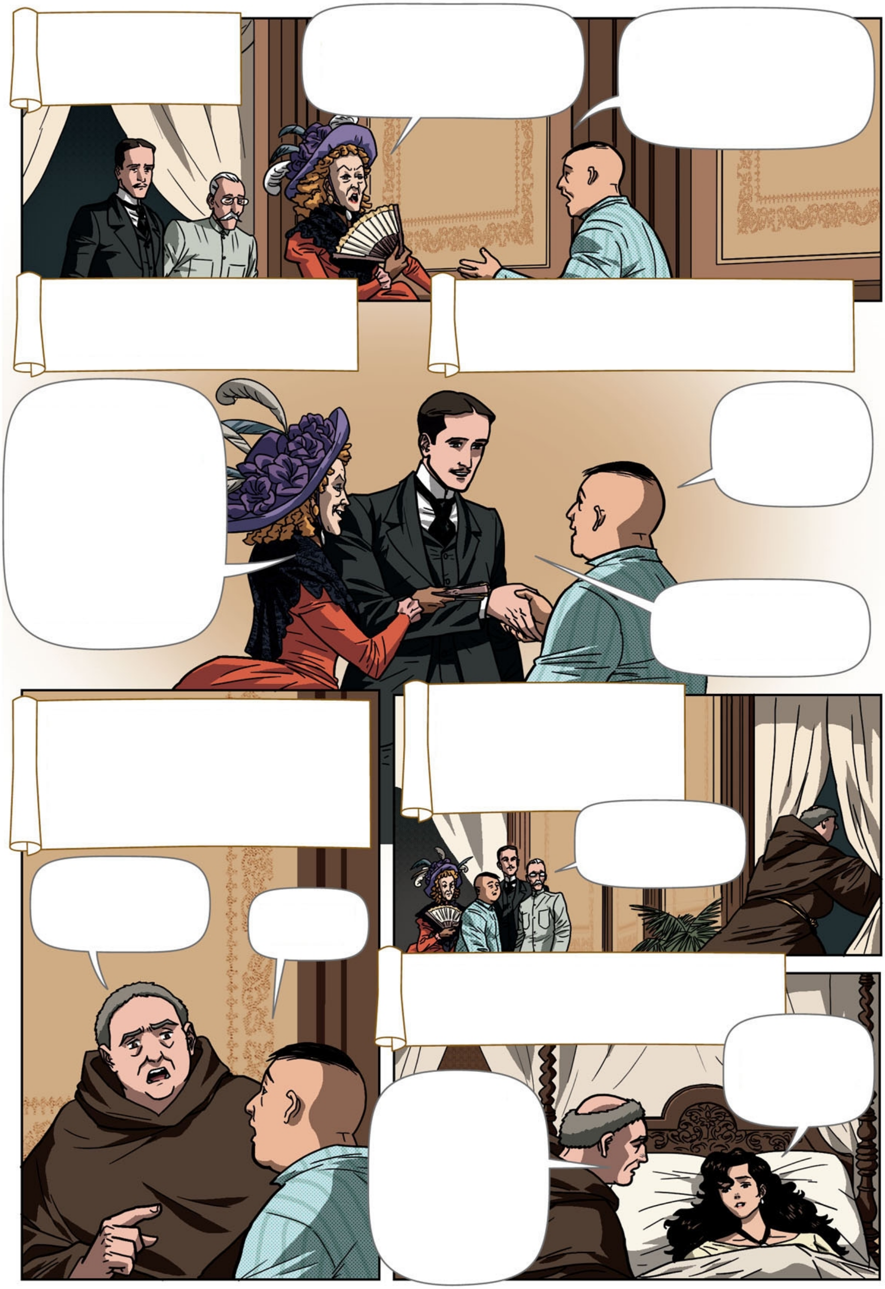
IT MAY NOT BE EASY BUT I'M TRYING HARD TO FORGET THE FATE THAT HAD BEFALLEN MY FATHER. A MAN OUGHT TO LIVE NOT FOR THE PAST BUT FOR THE PRESENT!

AFTER IBARRA HAD LEFT, THE CAPITAN-GENERAL CALLED FOR THE ALCALDE.

SEÑOR ALCALDE,

I PLACE SEÑOR IBARRA UNDER YOUR PROTECTION. AND LET THIS ORDER BE KNOWN BY THE ALFEREZ. HELP SEÑOR IBARRA IN ALL HIS PATRIOTIC PROJECTS!

IT SHALL BE DONE, GENERAL.



BECAUSE OF
REMORSE, MARIA
CLARA FELL ILL...

CAPITAN TIAGO, I HEARD THA
YOUR DAUGHTER IS SICK. TH
IS WHY I BROUGHT ALONG M
HUSBAND, DR. DE ESPADAÑ

GRACIAS, DOÑA VICTORINA.
THE TRUTH IS THAT I WOULD
HAVE SENT FOR YOUR
HUSBAND ANYWAY, HAD
YOU NOT ARRIVED.

AND WHILE DR. DE ESPADAÑA
WAS EXAMINING MARIA CLARA
IN HER ROOM...

CAPITAN TIAGO, ALLOW
ME THE PLEASURE OF
INTRODUCING TO YOU

OUR COUSIN, DON ALFONSO LINARES DE ESPADAÑA, A GODSON OF A RELATIVE OF PADRE DAMASO, AND PRIVATE SECRETARY OF ALL THE MINISTERS!

CAPITAN TIAGO WAS GREATLY PLE
THAT HIS GUEST HAD SOME
CONNECTION WITH PADRE DAMAS

I CONSIDER IT A GREAT HONOR TO SHAKE YOUR HAND, SEÑOR LINARES.

I WILL LIKEWISE CHERISH THE MEMORY OF THIS ACQUAINTANCE.

AND AS THE THREE OF THEM - CAPITAN TIAGO, DOÑA VICTORINA AND DON LINARES - WERE CONVERSING IN THE HALL, IN CAME PADRE DAMASO, LOOKING PALE AND WORRIED.

SANTIAGO! IS IT TRUE THAT MY GODCHILD IS SICK?

YES, PADRE DAMASO.

UNMINDFUL OF THE PEOPLE AROUND, PADRE DAMASO WENT STRAIGHT TO WHERE MARIA CLARA LAY IN BED...

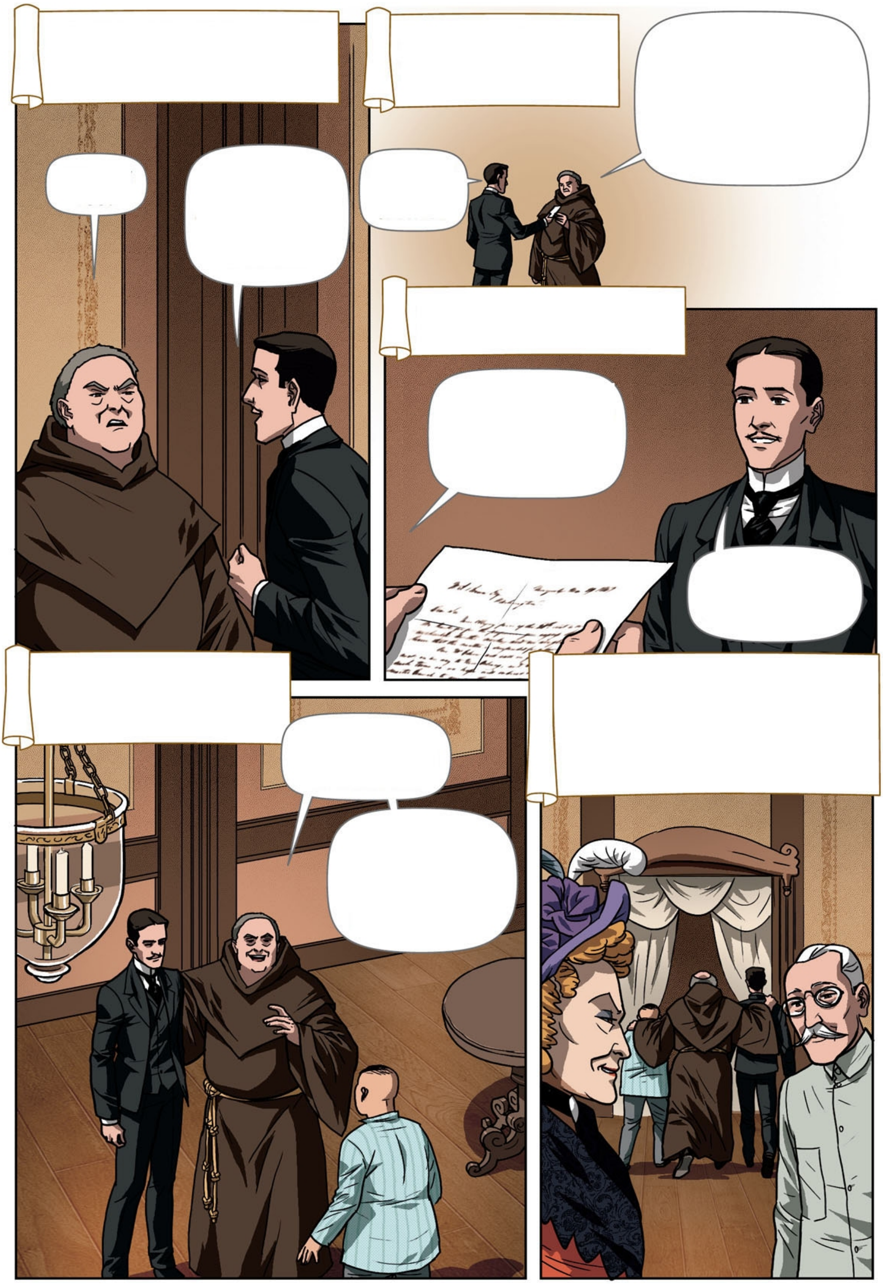
PADRE DAMASO LOVES HIS

GODDAUGHTER SO!

PADRE DAMASO APPROACHED THE
PATIENT, AND IN A VOICE FILLED
UNUTTERABLE AFFECTION...

I WILL CALL A
SPECIALIST TO
SPEED UP YOUR
RECOVERY...
I'M AFRAID DR.
ESPADAÑA CANNOT
CURE YOUR
ILLNESS!

THANK YOU,
FATHER... BUT I
WILL GET WELL
IN DUE TIME.



LINARES MET PADRE DAMASO WHEN THE LATTER RETURNED TO THE HALL AND...

WHO ARE YOU?

I AM ALFONSO LINARES, THE GODSON OF YOUR BROTHER-IN-LAW CARLICOS!

AFTER MAKING A CLOSE APPRAISAL OF THE YOUNG MAN...

I'M SORRY I DID NOT RECOGNIZE YOU AT ONCE. YOU WERE NOT YET BORN WHEN I SAILED AWAY FROM SPAIN. WHAT DOES

CARLICOS WANT ME TO DO FOR YOU?

HE STATED IT IN HIS LETTER...

PADRE DAMASO ANXIOUSLY READ THE LETTER.

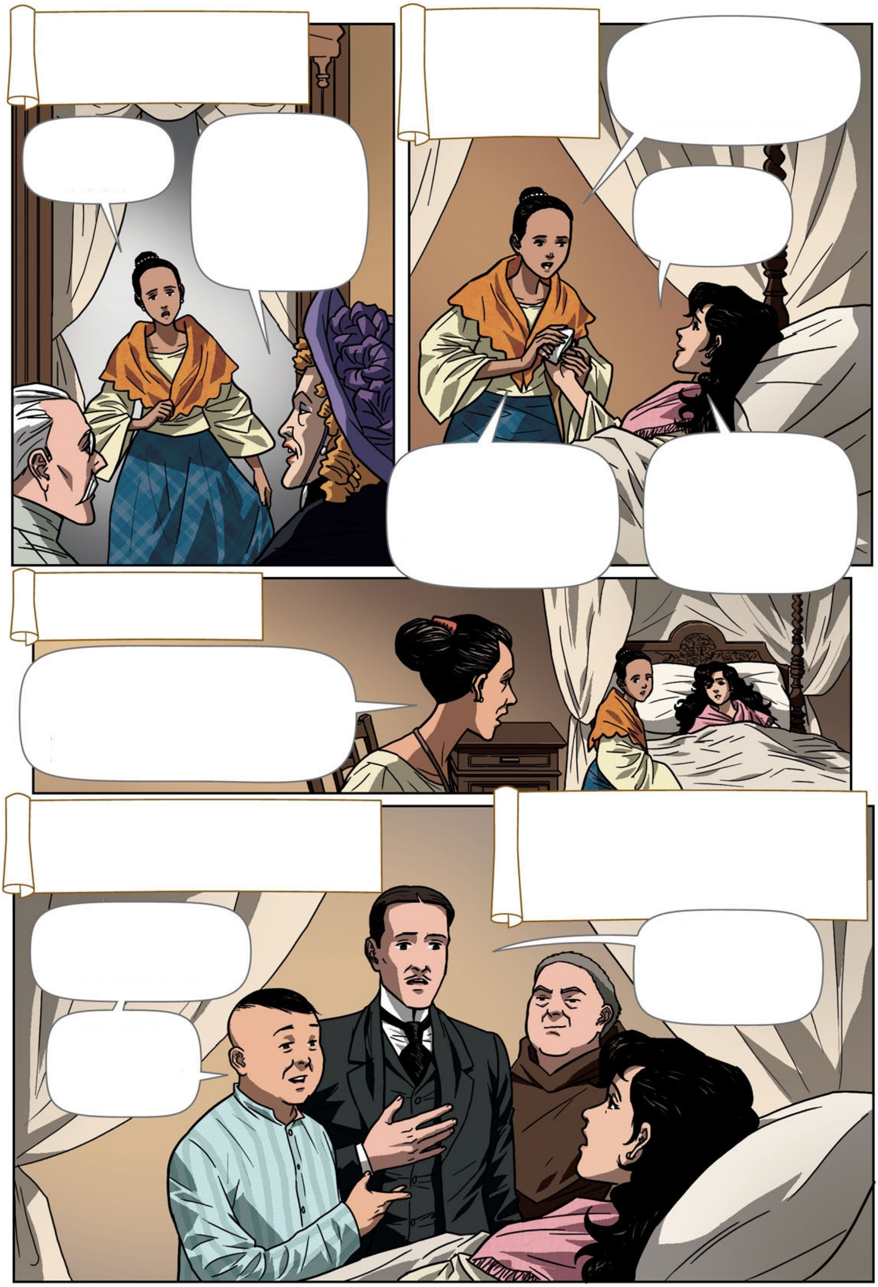
HE REQUESTS THAT I FIND YOU A JOB AND A WIFE. A JOB, WELL, THAT'S EASY, BUT A WIFE...

PADRE, I AM NOT IN A HURRY REGARDING THAT...

PADRE DAMASO DID NOT SEEM TO HEAR LINARES, AND...

AH, NOW I KNOW!
COME, LET US TALK
TO SANTIAGO!
SANTIAGO,
I WOULD LIKE TO
TALK TO YOU IN
PRIVATE... COME
WITH US, LINARES!

AND AS THE THREE ENTERED A ROOM, DOÑA VICTORINA AND DR. DE ESPADAÑA MERELY STOOD BEHIND, EXCHANGING MEANINGFUL GLANCES.



IT WAS AT THIS JUNCTURE THAT SINANG, MARIA CLARA'S FRIEND, ARRIVED.

IS IT TRUE THAT MARIA CLARA IS SICK?

YES, SINANG. BUT THERE IS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. SHE IS UNDER THE ABLE CARE OF DR. DE ESPADAÑA!

AS SOON AS SINANG HAD ENTERED MARIA CLARA'S ROOM...

HE SENT ME OVER TO GIVE YOU THESE TABLETS... YOU SHOULD TAKE IN THREE OF THESE EVERY DAY...

THANK YOU, SINANG. DIDN'T HE SEND ME LETTERS?

SINANG WANTED TO INQUIRE, BUT THEN...

HIJA, PADRE DAMASO SA
YOU SHOULD PREPARE YOU
CONFESSION TONIGHT... A
FATHER WISHES TO KNOW
NOW INTRODUCE TO YOU A

NO... BUT HE ASKED ME TO TELL YOU THAT HE WAS GOING TO SEE THE

ARCHBISHOP ABOUT HIS EXCOMMUNICATION. SINANG, PLEASE WRITE TO HIM ON MY BEHALF. TELL HIM IN THE LETTER THAT HE MUST NOT THINK OF ME ANYMORE!

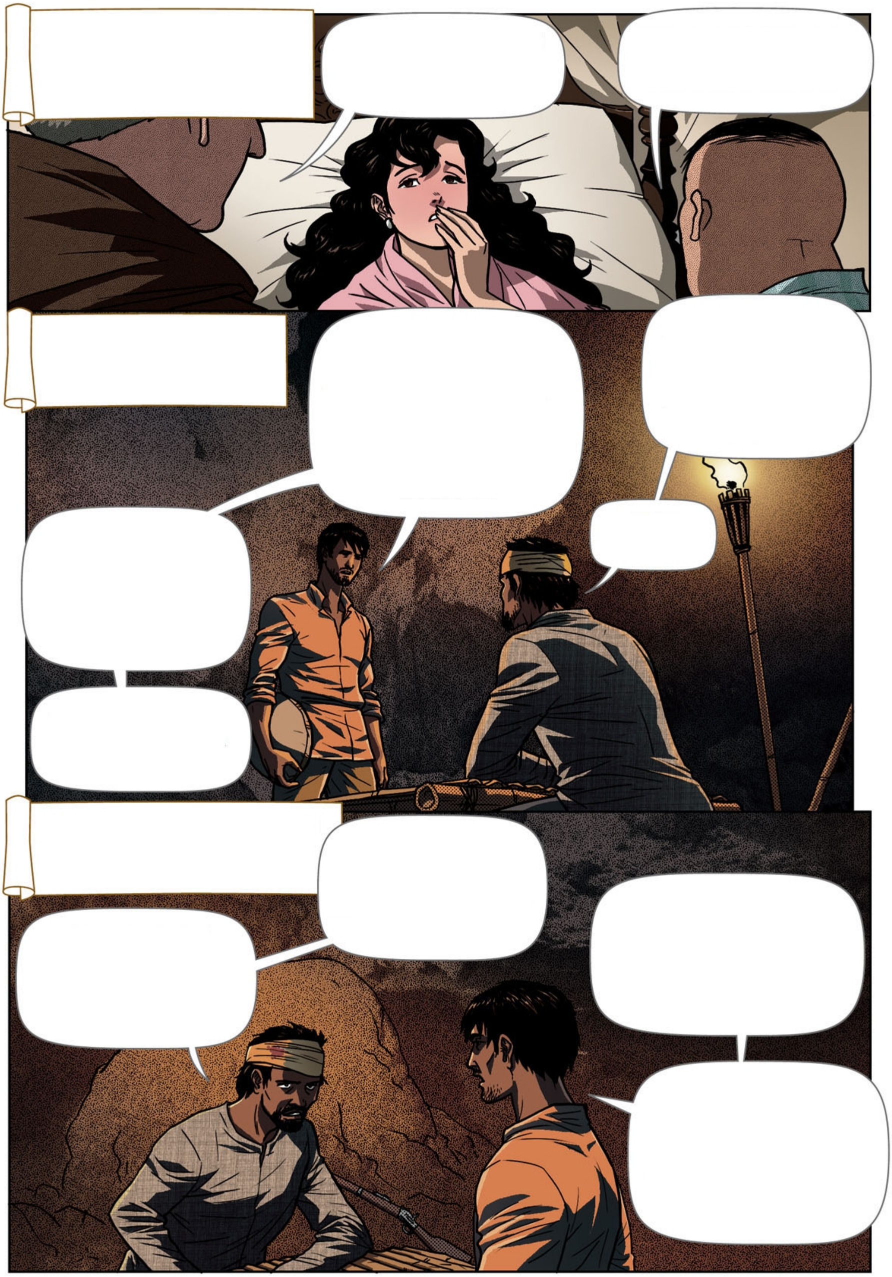
THE GIRL NODDED WEAKLY, AND IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, A NEW FACE WAS SMILING AT HER...

MARIA CLARA, THIS IS DON ALFONSO LINARES DE ESPADAÑA...

DON LINARES, SHE IS MY ONE AND ONLY CHILD.

A STRANGE FEELING SEIZED LINARES AS HE GAZED AT THE BEAUTIFUL MARIA CLARA. IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT, TO SAY THE LEAST.

SEÑORITA, THIS IS MY FIRST TIME TO SEE AN ANGEL ON EARTH...



MARIA CLARA'S FACE GREW RED UPON HEARING THE COMPLIMENT OF THE NEW ACQUAINTANCE.

YOU HAVE NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF, HIJA. HE IS NO STRANGER TO US!

THAT'S RIGHT, MARIA CLARA. CONSIDER DON LINARES AS AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE.

MEANWHILE, ELIAS WAS TALKING WITH SOMEONE IN A FOREST NEARBY.

LET US PREVENT THE FLOW OF BLOOD, CAPITAN. I SURE SEÑOR IBARRA CAN H US. HE CAN PRESENT OUR GRIEVANCES TO THE CAPITA

GENERAL WITH WHOM HE HA
DEVELOPED GOODWILL AN
FRIENDSHIP.

I HAVE MY DOUBTS MAINLY BECAUSE HE IS RICH. ALL OTHER RICH MEN THINK NOTHING EXCEPT TO ACCUMULATE MORE WEALTH.

AND IF YOU FAIL?

GIVE ME A CHANCE TO TRY THIS PEACEFUL PLAN. IF I SUCCEED, WE WILL HAVE PREVENTED THE UNNECESSARY FLOW OF BLOOD.

THEN I WILL COME AND

PLACE MYSELF UNDER
YOUR COMMAND!

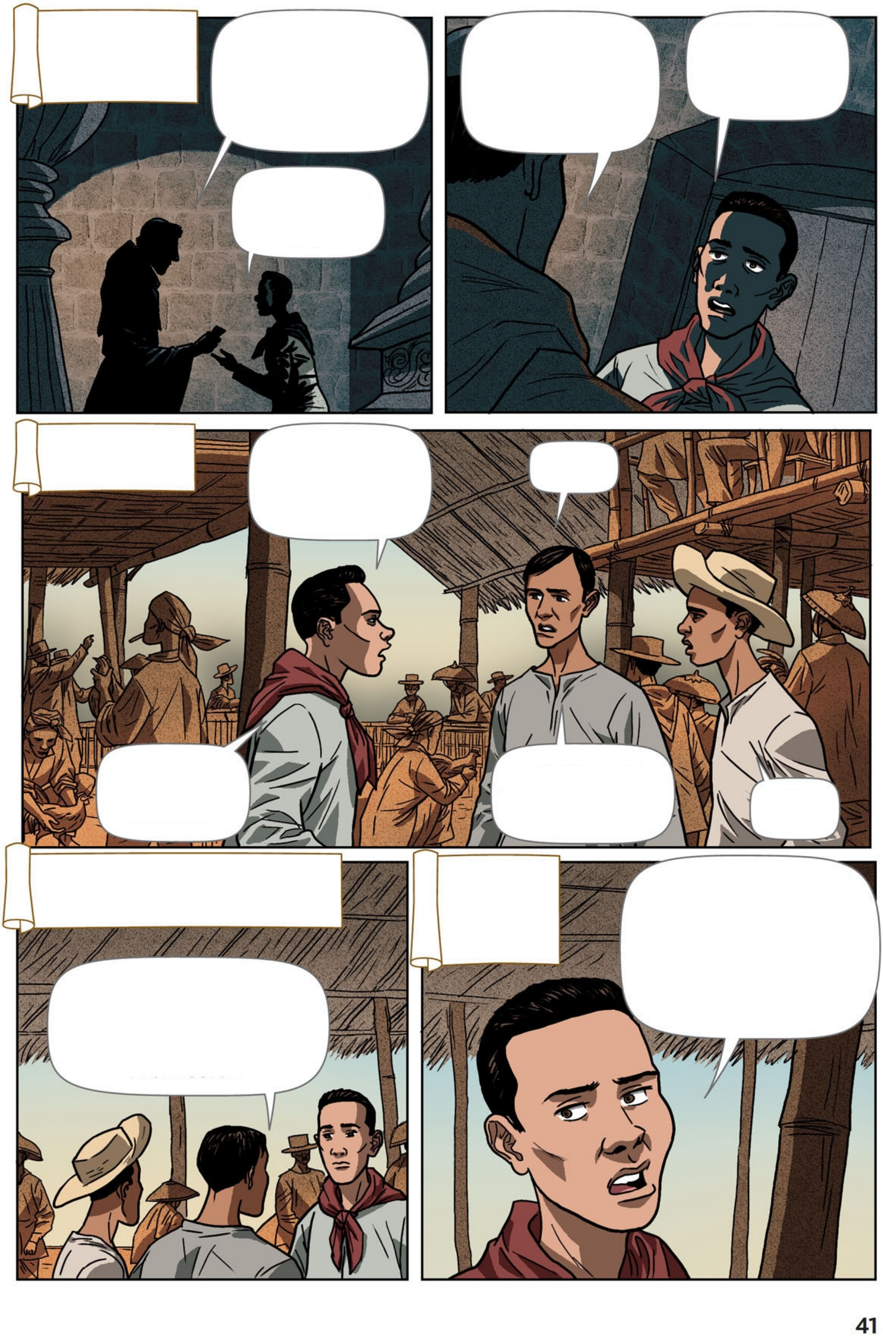
THE LEADER OF THE REBELS
SMILED UPON HEARING
THOSE WORDS...

I SHALL BE WAITING,
ELIAS... AND FOR THE SAKE
OF PEACE AND FREEDOM,
I HOPE YOU WILL SUCCEED
IN YOUR PLANS!

REPRESENT YOUR
PEOPLE THEN AND STATE
THE EXTENT OF THEIR
MISFORTUNES. WHEN DO I
SEE YOU NEXT?

FOUR DAYS FROM NOW,
SEND A MAN TO MEET ME AT
THE SEASHORE OF SAN DIEGO.

I SHALL TELL HIM THE ANSWER I'VE OBTAINED FROM SEÑOR IBARRA... IF HE ACCEPTS MY PROPOSAL, THEN WE SHALL EVENTUALLY HAVE JUSTICE! IF NOT, I WILL BE THE FIRST TO RALLY AND PERISH IN THE STRIFE THAT WE WILL START.



THE NEXT DAY,
AT A SECRET
PLACE...

YOU WILL HAVE MUCH
MORE THAN THIS
AMOUNT, LUCAS. WELL,
ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF
MY PLAN?

YES, SIR. I WILL
TAKE CARE
OF IT!

DO YOU PROMISE
THAT NOBODY WILL
COME TO KNOW OF
THIS SECRET EXCEPT
THE TWO OF US?

I WILL DIE WITH
THE SECRET

SEALED IN MY
LIPS!

AND AFTER A
FEW DAYS...

WHY, TARSILO?
WHY DO YOU
DISAGREE?

WELL, DOES YOUR
BROTHER AGREE
TO MY PROPOSAL,
BRUNO?

NO...
BECAUSE WHAT
YOU'RE PLANNING IS
DANGEROUS!

THAT'S
TRUE.

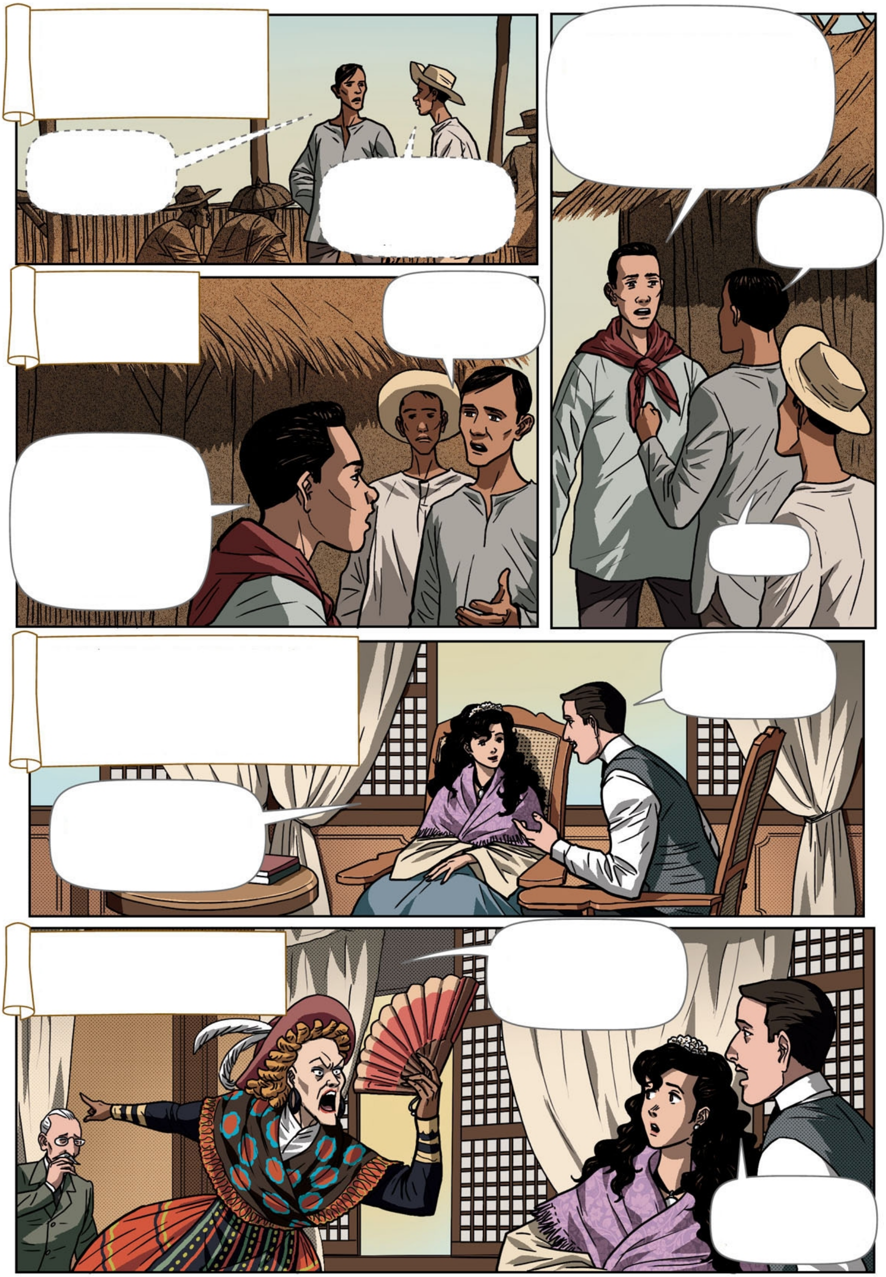
SILENCE REIGNED BETWEEN

THEM. AFTER A WHILE...

LUCAS, PLEASE LEND US SOME MONEY — FOUR, THREE TWO PESOS. WE HAVE LOST A THAT WE HAVE. WE WILL PAY Y BACK DOUBLE!

LUCAS SHOOK HIS HEAD AND...

BUT THIS MONEY IS NOT MINE. SEÑOR IBARRA INTENDS IT ONLY FOR THOSE WHO ARE RESPONDING TO HIS CALL. I AM SORRY, BRUNO, BUT I REALLY CAN'T LEND YOU MONEY!



LUCAS THEN LEFT THE
TWO TO GIVE THEM
AN OPPORTUNITY TO
DISCUSS MATTERS.

WELL, SHALL
WE ACCEPT THE
PROPOSAL?

YES... BUT
LET US ASK HIM FIRST
HOW MUCH WE WILL
RECEIVE!

AND IF THE RESULT OF OUR
RAID IS SATISFACTORY, EACH
YOU AND YOUR COMPANIONS
WILL GET A HUNDRED PESOS
DON'T FORGET THAT SEÑOR
IBARRA IS RICH!

BRUNO

APPROACHED
LUCAS AND...

AND HOW MUCH
SHALL WE GET
FOR THIS?

EACH ONE WILL
RECEIVE THIRTY
PESOS AND TEN
PESOS WILL GO TO
EACH COMPANION
THAT YOU WILL
BRING.

THEN I
ACCEPT THE
PROPOSAL!

ME TOO!

MEANWHILE, AT THE HOUSE
OF CAPITAN TIAGO, MARIA

CLARA, LINARES, SINANG, AND VICTORIA WERE ENGAGED IN FRIENDLY CONVERSATION.

LIKE IBARRA, YOU HAVE TRAVELLED TO SO MANY COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD!

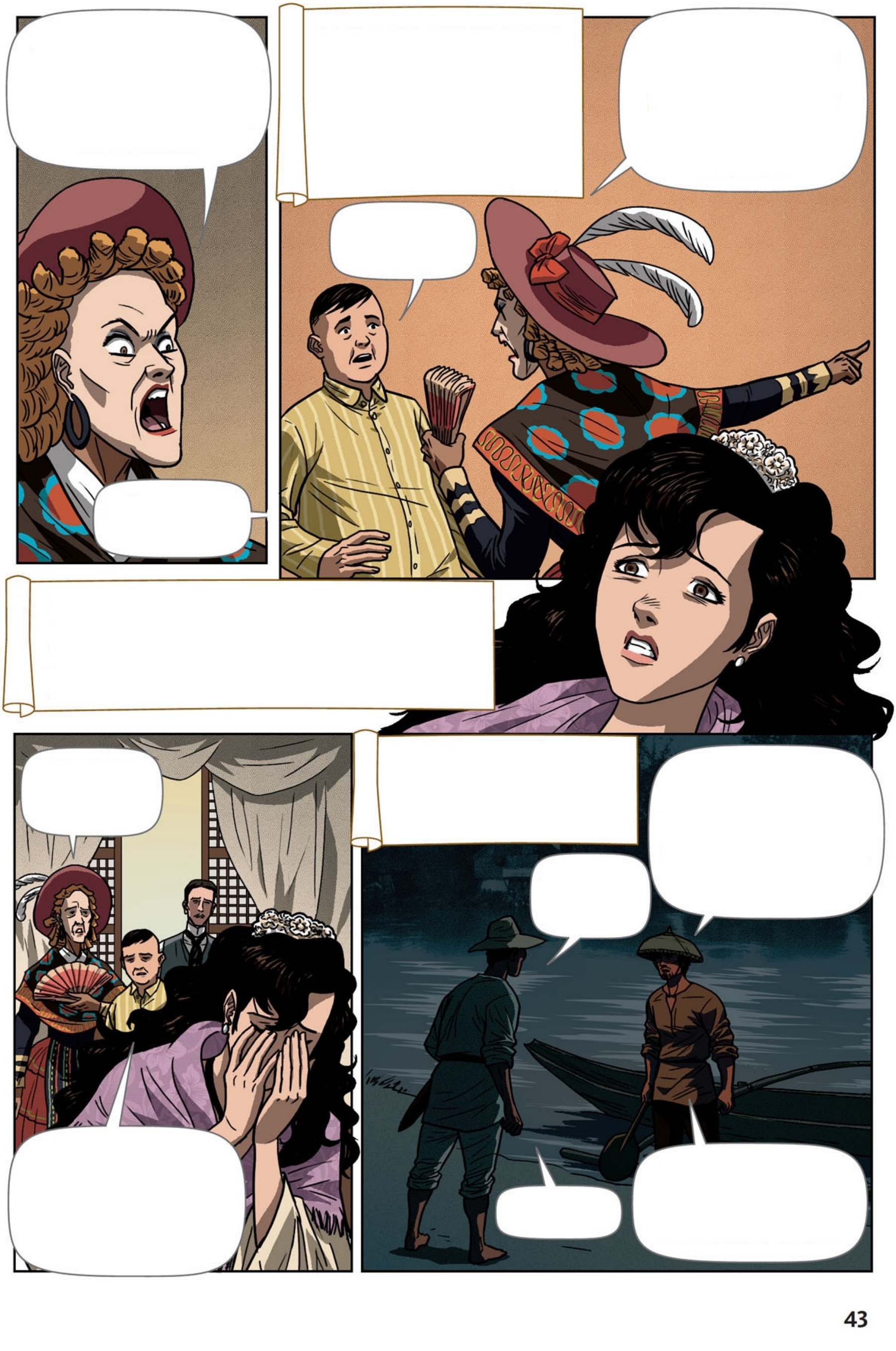
MAYBE IBARRA AND I HAVE THE SAME INTERESTS...

THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN, THEIR CONVERSATION WAS INTERRUPTED.

LINARES, GO TO THE ALFEREZ RIGHT NOW AND CHALLENGE HIM TO A FIGHT OR...

BUT WHY,

DOÑA VICTORINA?
WHAT HAPPENED?



BECAUSE HE AND HIS QUERIDA HAD INSULTED US! IT IS YOUR DUTY TO DEFEND US, COUSIN! OTHERWISE, I'LL HAVE EVERYONE KNOW YOUR REAL IDENTITY!

JUST THEN CAPITAN TIAGO ARRIVED FROM THE COCKPIT. DOÑA VICTORINA IMMEDIATELY RELATED TO HIM WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED BETWEEN HER AND DOÑA CONSOLACION.

MY COUSIN LINARES SHOULD CHALLENGE THE ALFEREZ TO A FIGHT! IF HE IS NOT MAN ENOUGH TO DO THAT, DO NOT

LET HIM MARRY YOUR
DAUGHTER!

WELL, WHAT DO
YOU INTEND TO
DO NOW?

DOÑA VICTORINA...

DO BE QUIET...

UPON HEARING THOSE WORDS, M
TURNED PALE. SHE REALIZED TH
SHE HAS BEEN FEARING ALL ALO
TRUE AFTER ALL - THAT HER FAT
ARRANGED FOR HER TO MARRY

OH, WHY IS
MARIA CLARA
CRYING?

SHE WAS NOT TOLD
ABOUT OUR AGREEMENT
WITH PADRE DAMASO...

THAT WE HAVE ARRANGED HER MARRIAGE TO LINARES!

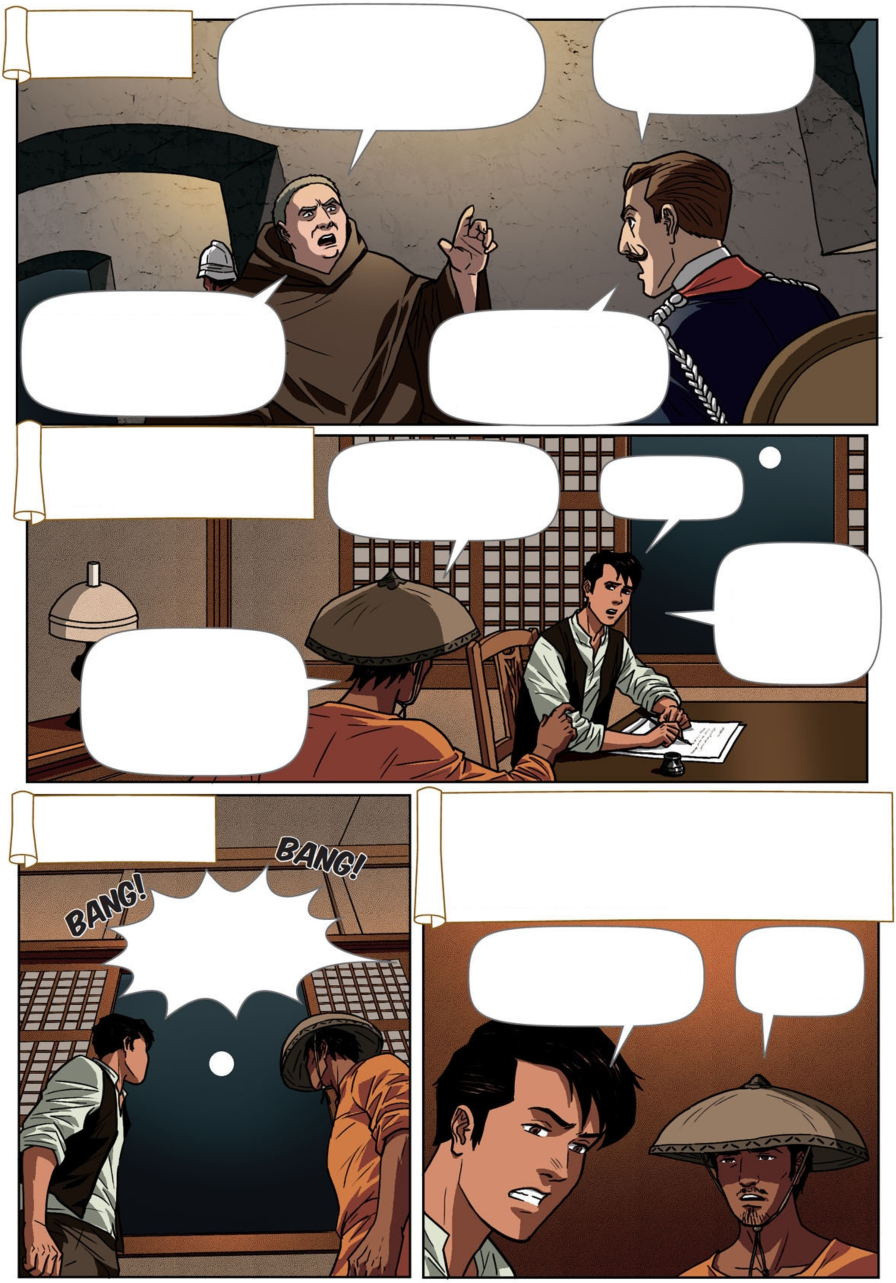
THAT NIGHT, AFTER ELIAS HAD PRESENTED THE TOWNSPEOPLE'S GRIEVANCES TO IBARRA...

TELL HIM THAT I FAILED. SEÑOR IBARRA HOLDS THE BELIEF THAT SITUATIONS WOULD ONLY WORSEN SHOULD RADICAL REFORMS BE INSTITUTED THIS TIME.

WHAT SHALL I TELL THE CAPITAN?

IS THAT ALL?

TELL HIM, TOO, THAT
ELIAS, AS LONG AS THERE
IS LIFE IN HIM, WILL MAKE
GOOD ON HIS PROMISE!


BANG!
BANG!

MEANWHILE...

ALERT YOUR SOLDIERS
TOMORROW NIGHT, SEÑOR ALFE
RECEIVED BAD NEWS ABOUT
WELL-ORGANIZED SCHEME
I HEARD THAT THE TULISANES
WILL RAID YOUR BARRACKS
TOMORROW NIGHT AT EXACTLY
EIGHT O'CLOCK!

WHY, PADRE DAMASO?
WHAT IS THAT BAD
NEWS ABOUT?

CARAMBA! IS THIS
TRUE? WHETHER OR NOT
THIS IS TRUE, I WILL HAVE
MY MEN BE PREPARED!

THE NEXT NIGHT, SHORTLY
BEFORE THE HOUR OF

EIGHT...

SEÑOR IBARRA! BETTER LEAVE THIS PLACE AT ONCE! DON'T LOSE TIME!

WHY, ELIAS?

MY GOD!

WHO COULD THIS SOULLESS... BUT WHAT SHALL I DO? WHAT?

BECAUSE AN UPRISING WILL BE HELD TONIGHT, AND I DISCOVERED THAT YOU WILL BE NAMED AS THE PERPETRATOR.

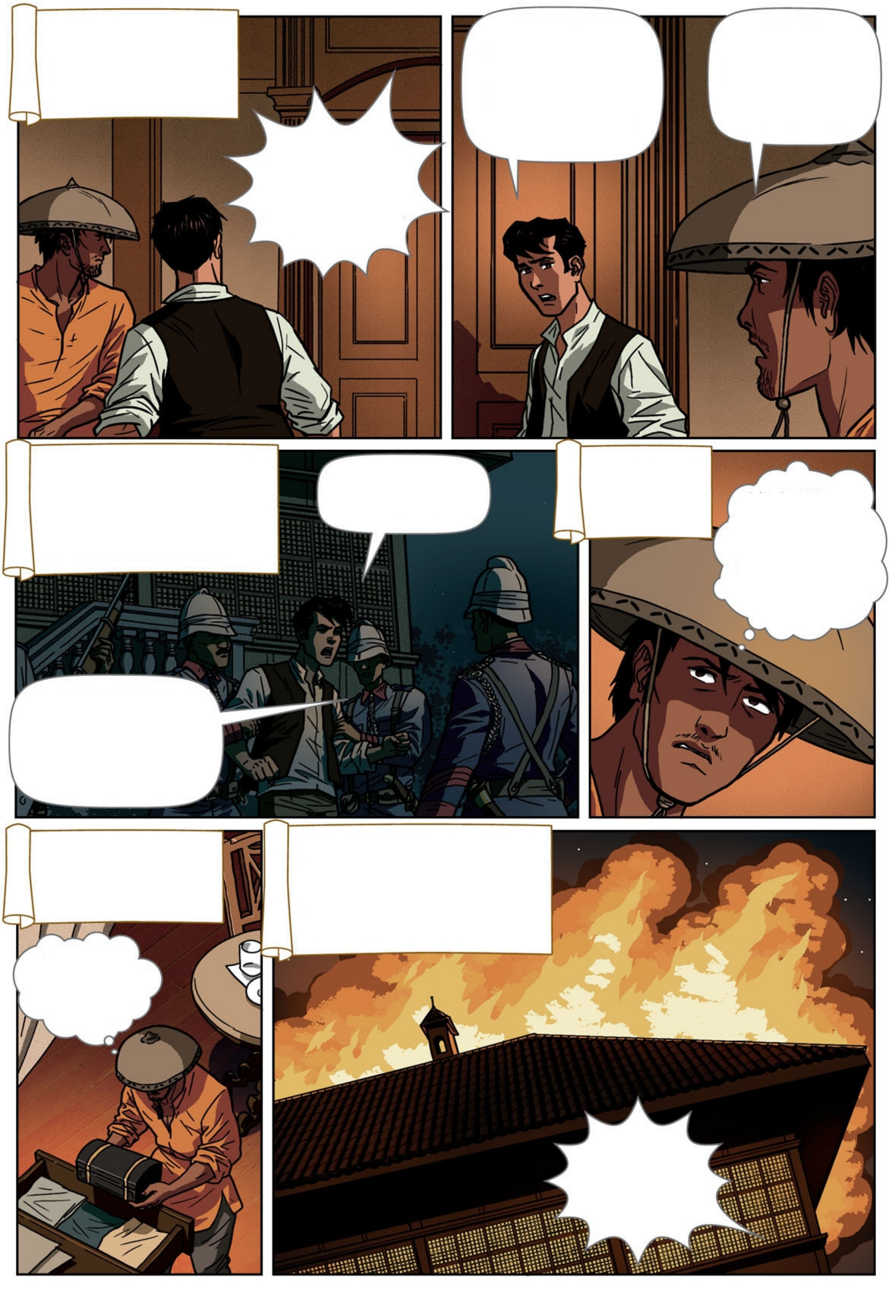
THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN...

LONG LIVE

CRISOSTOMO IBARRA!
MABUHAY!

NOISE RENT THE AIR FOR QUITE
SHOTS OF GUNFIRE... SHOUTS...
AND GROANS OF THE HELPLESS
THEN SILENCE REIGNED ANEW...
FRIGHTENING SILENCE!

THE PLOT HAS BEEN
ACCOMPLISHED! THERE IS
NOTHING MORE I CAN DO!
NOTHING...
EXCEPT TO
RUN AWAY!



SUDDENLY, HEAVY
KNOCKS ON THE
DOOR STARTLED
THEM.

OPEN THE DOOR
IN THE NAME OF
THE KING OF SPAIN
OR WE WILL FORCE
OUR WAY IN!

IT IS FUTILE TO
FIGHT THEM! YOUR
LIFE WOULD BE IN
DANGER, TOO! HIDE
YOURSELF, ELIAS...
GOODBYE!

WE WILL
MEET AGAIN
SOMEDAY, SEÑOR

IBARRA... THIS I
PROMISE YOU!

AS SOON AS ELIAS
HAD FLED TO SAFETY,
IBARRA PEACEFULLY
WENT IN THE COMPANY
OF THE SOLDIERS.

WHERE WILL YOU
TAKE ME?

WHERE ELSE?
TO THE BARRACKS
WHERE ALL INSURGENTS
LIKE YOU WOULD
ROT IN JAIL!

AFTER
A FEW
MINUTES...

THE SPANIARDS

MUST NOT GET HOLD OF SEÑOR IBARRA'S TREASURES! I'LL SEE TO THAT!

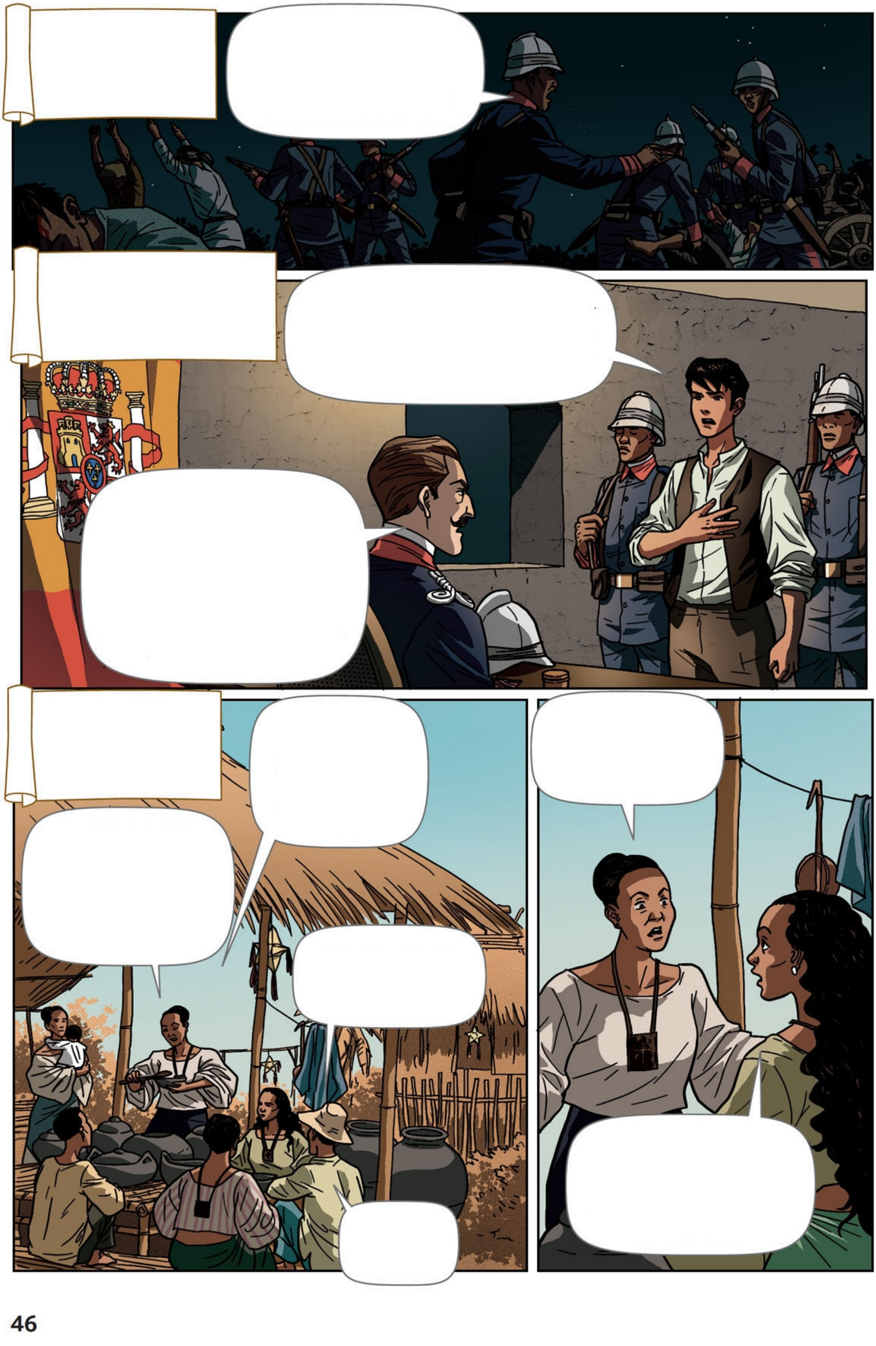
AND AFTER SEARCHING THE WHOLE HOUSE...

WITH THIS TREASURES, HE MIGHT YET BE SAVED!

AND THINKING OF ALL THE PAPERS THAT MIGHT INCRIMINATE IBARRA, ELIAS SET FIRE ON THE HOUSE AND...

FIRE! SEÑOR

IBARRA'S HOUSE
IS ON FIRE!



MEANWHILE, IN A PLACE NOT FAR FROM THE BARRACKS...

HURRY UP OR WE WILL BEAR THE BRUNT OF THE ALFEREZ'S IRE! HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR IBARRA, THIS WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED AT ALL...

WHEN AT LAST IBARRA HAD COME FACE TO FACE WITH THE ALFEREZ...

SEÑOR ALFEREZ, I HAD NOT
TO DO WITH WHAT HAPPENED!
HOME RESTING AT THE TIME.
FRAME-UP. I TELL YOU, I HAD N
TO DO WITH IT!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO ME, SEÑOR IBARRA. THE DECISION IS NOT MINE TO GIV AS A GOOD SOLDIER I ONLY D MY DUTY TO ORDER THE ARRES OF ALL PERSONS SUSPECTED OF HAVING INVOLVEMENT IN TH REVOLT LAST NIGHT!

AFTER A FEW DAYS SINCE THE IMPRISONMENT OF IBARRA...

SHE'S GETTING MARRIED? TO WHOM? CRISOSTOMO IS STILL IN JAIL! WILL THE WEDDING TAKE PLACE IN JAIL?

MARIA CLARA IS GETTING MARRIED. IT WILL BE A GRAND WEDDING, I TELL YOU!

AND WHO SAID SHE WOULD BE MARRIED TO CRISOSTOMO?

IF NOT HIM, THEN TO WHOM?

TO DON ALFONSO LINARES, THE COUSIN OF DR. AND DOÑA DE ESPADAÑA!

POOR IBARRA! HIS HOUSE TURNED TO ASHES!

HE WAS IMPRISONED! NOW HE IS ABOUT TO LOSE HIS SWEETHEART.

THE NEWS REACHED IBARRA IN HIS CELL...

UNFAITHFULNESS OR LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE MUST HAVE DRIVEN HER TO BREAK OUR TIES! SHE IS JUST A WOMAN AFTER ALL!

ONE NIGHT, BY MEANS OF A WEL
ELIAS AND A GROUP OF HIS MEN
SUBDUING THE PRISON SENTINEL
OF GUNS.

HURRY UP! WE MUST GET OUT OF HERE AS FAST AS POSSIBLE!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO FIRST?

TO MARIA CLARA'S HOUSE, ELIAS. BEFORE I LEAVE THIS PLACE, I MUST SEE AND TALK TO HER BY ALL MEANS.

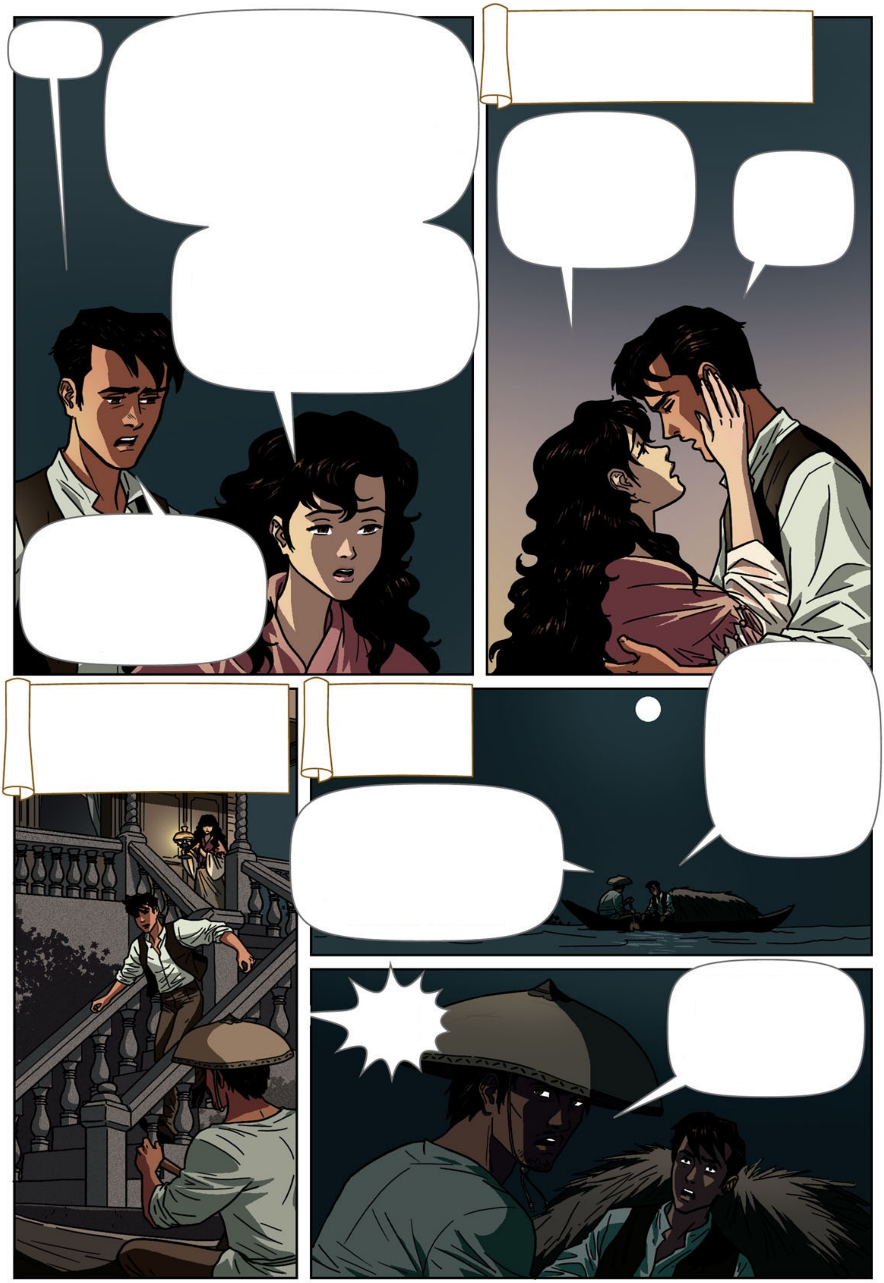
MARIA CLARA, UNABLE TO SLEEP BECAUSE OF HAUNTING MEMORIES, WAS ALL ALONE AT THE AZOTEA, WHEN...

MY GOD! IT'S IBARRA AND ELIAS!

A FEW MINUTES LATER THE HAPL
WERE CLOSETED AGAINST EACH

YOU WOULD NOT HAVE SAID THAT HAD YOU KNOWN THE WHOLE TRUTH. NOW I KNOW WHO IS MY REAL FATHER. HE STOPPED ME FROM LOVING YOU — EXCEPT IF HE HIMSELF SHOULD PARDON THE DISGRACE YOU HAD CAUSED HIM!

I HAD VOWED TO MY MOTHER THAT I WOULD MAKE YOU HAPPY... BEFORE I LEAVE YOU FOREVER, I HAVE COME TO ASSUR YOU OF MY FORGIVENESS SO THA YOU WILL NOT BE BOTHERED BY YOUR CONSCIENCE THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.



WHAT?

I WAS TOLD THAT MY
BECAME UNFAITHFUL TO
THERE LIES THE MYSTERY
I DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO
MARRY EACH OTHER, TH
HOLDS THIS SECRET SAID T
BE FORCED TO REVEAL TO T
IDENTITY OF MY REAL
I WAS LEFT WITHOUT A
CHOICE. FOR THE SAKE OF TH
SACRED MEMORY OF MY MOTH
THE HONOR OF MY SUPPOSE
FATHER AND THE HOLINESS
ATTACHED TO THE REAL ONE
NAME... FORGIVE ME, IBARRA

IT IS I WHO SHOULD
ASK FOR FORGIVENESS,

MARIA CLARA. I WAS TERRIBLY
WRONG WHEN I DOUBTED
THE SINCERITY OF YOUR
PROMISES!

THE LOVERS HELD EACH
OTHER IN A TIGHT EMBRACE.

WHEREVER YOU
MAY BE, I SHALL GO
ON CHERISHING IN MY
HEART THE LOVE THAT
I VOWED WILL ALWAYS
BE YOURS.

TILL WE
MEET
AGAIN, MY
LOVE!

IBARRA STEPPED DOWN,
LEAVING THE GIRL IN

DEEP SORROW AND
BEREAVEMENT.
SOON THE
BANCA WAS
FAR AWAY...

NEWS ABOUT YOUR ESCAPE MUST HAVE SPREAD BY NOW! IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE BE CAREFUL! I'LL HIDE YOU IN MANDALUYONG IN THE HOUSE OF A FRIEND.

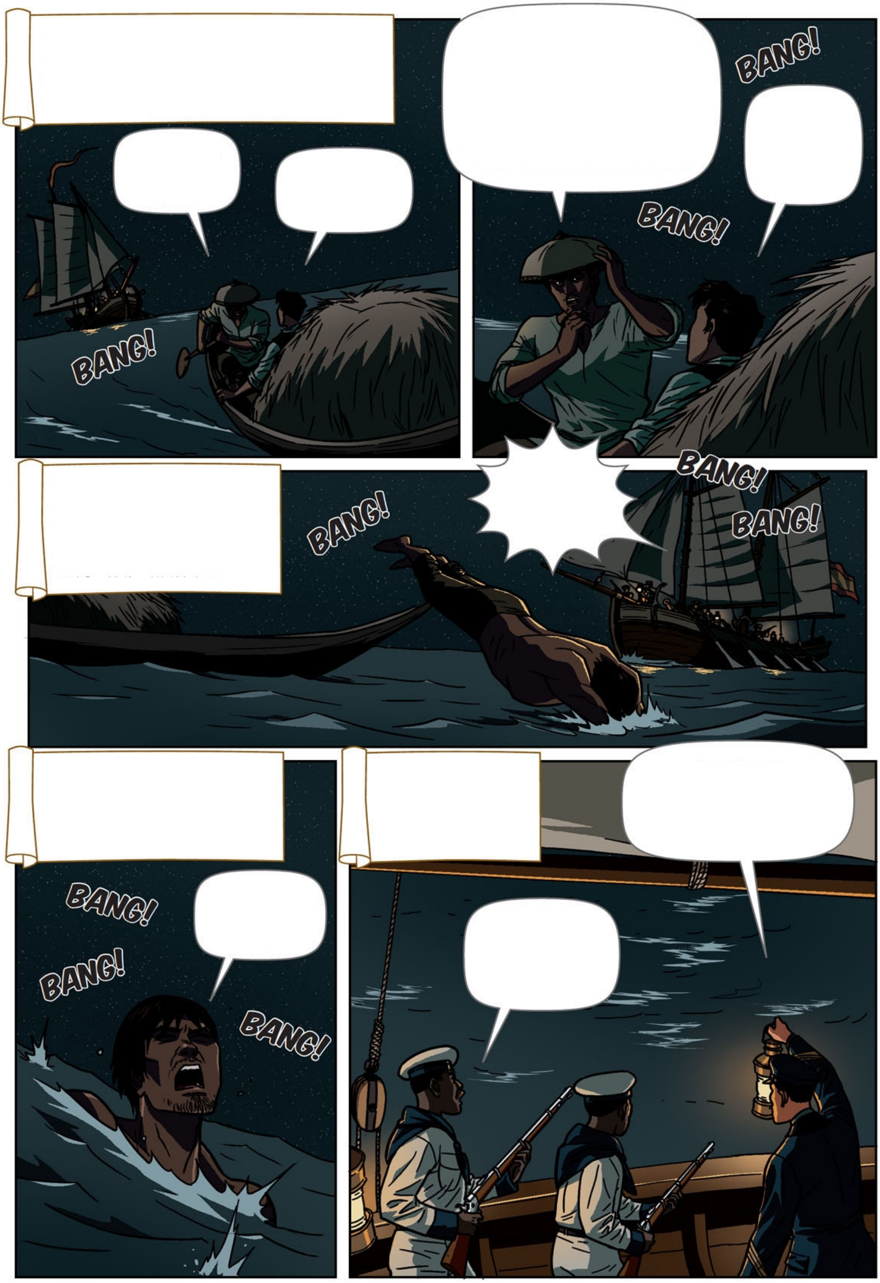
BETTER COME WITH ME AND LIVE ABROAD, ELIAS. AFTER ALL WE SHARE THE SAME FATE! WE WILL LIVE AS TRUE

BROTHERS.

ALTO!

ALTO!

SOMEONE SAW US! LIE DOWN AND COVER YOURSELF WITH ZACATE, SEÑOR IBARRA!


BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!

IBARRA DID AS HE WAS TOLD. AS ELIAS ROWED THE BANCA WITH A HIS MIGHT, SUCCESSIVE SHOTS RENT THE AIR.

THEY HAVE RECOGNIZED US!

WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?

I WILL JUMP OFF AND LET THEM CHASE ME TO DISTRACT THEIR ATTENTION FROM THE BOAT! THE NIGHT IS DARK AND YOU HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF ESCAPING! THEY WOULD THINK THAT THE BANCA IS EMPTY!

ELIAS! I

DO NOT
APPROVE
OF YOUR...
ELIAS IGNORED

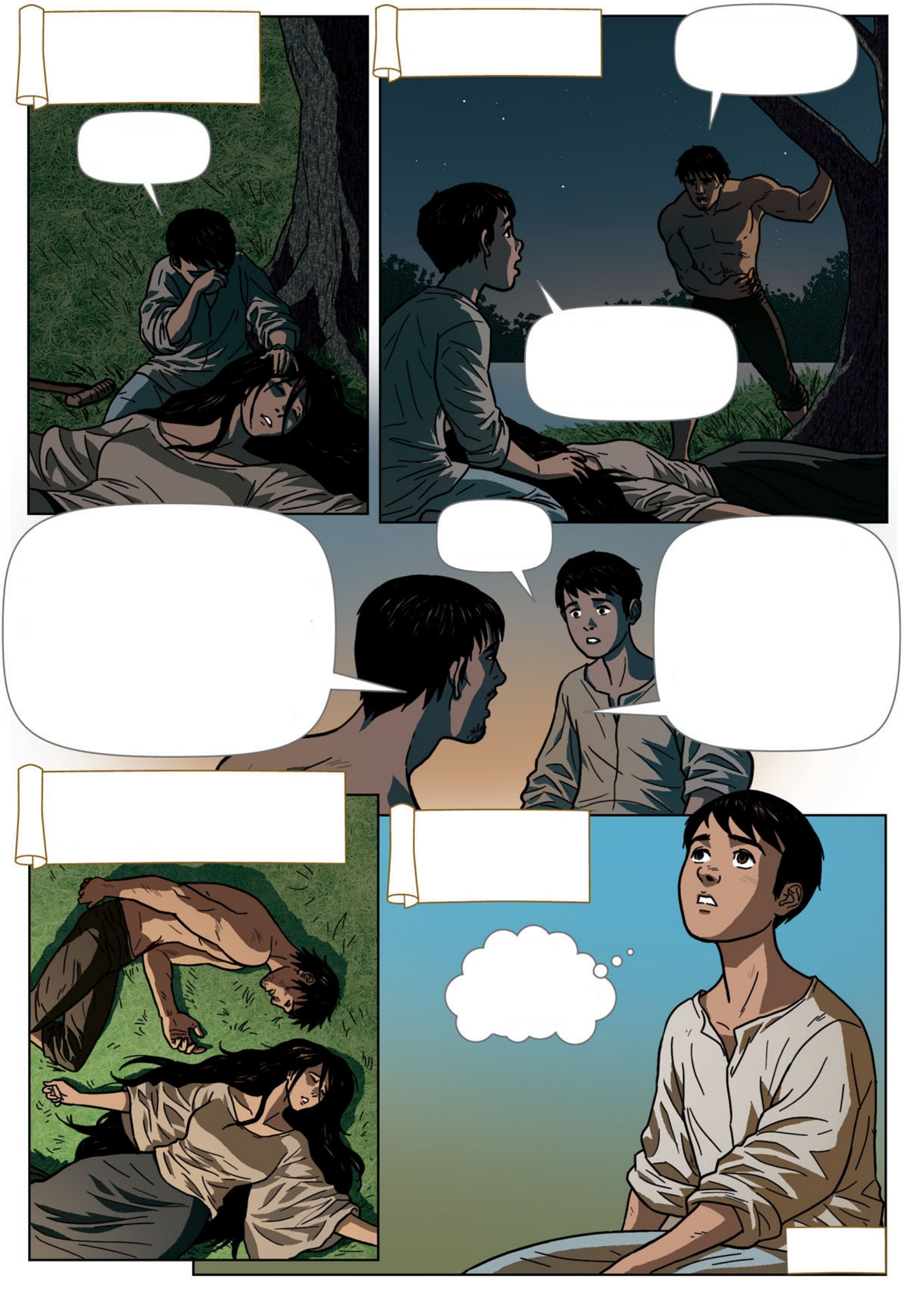
IBARRA. AFTER GIVING
THE BANCA A STRONG
SHOVE, HE LEAPED
INTO THE WATER...
THERE HE IS!
SHOOT HIM,
QUICK!
FATIGUE CAUGHT UP
WITH ELIAS, AND AS HE
SURFACED ONCE MORE
TO CATCH SOME AIR...
UGH! MY GOD!
I HAVE BEEN

HIT!

ELIAS'S BODY
SANK AND THE
WATER TURNED
CRIMSON...

LET US GO
BACK TO BARRACKS AND
TELL THE NEWS TO THE
ALFEREZ!

IBARRA IS
DEAD! WE GOT
HIM IN THE END!



MEANWHILE, AT THE
OPPOSITE SIDE OF
THE RIVER BANK...
MOTHER!
OH, MOTHER!
SUDDENLY BASILIO
WAS TAKEN BACK...
WHO ARE YOU?
AND WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE?
MY NAME IS BASILIO,
SIR. AND THIS IS MY
MOTHER! SHE'S DEAD!
MY MOTHER IS DEAD!
LISTEN TO ME! I, TOO, WILL
DEAD BEFORE MORNING CO
YONDER ON THE SIDE OF THE
AND YOU WILL SEE A BIG PIL

FIREWOOD. BRING THEM HERE,
UPON IT OUR TWO BODIES, C
THEM ENTIRELY, AND SET THE
ON FIRE AND ALLOW IT TO BU
UNTIL NOTHING IS LEFT BUT
ASHES.

YES, SIR.

YES, SIR.

AFTER YOU HAVE DONE THIS AND NO ONE COMES, DIG THIS PLACE AND YOU WILL DISCOVER PLENTY OF GOLD. IT WILL ALL BE YOURS. TAKE THE GOLD AND STUDY! IN YOU LIES THE HOPE OF OUR FATHERLAND!

ELIAS WAS GETTING WEAKER.

THEN HE SLUMPED DEAD ON
THE GROUND...
AND BEFORE
THE SUN RISES
IN THE EAST.

HE DIED
WITH A SMILE
ON HIS LIPS! WHO
COULD HE BE?

THE END.

NOLI ME TANGERE COMICS

Written by Leo Miranda and D. G
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